

Winter break hours across campus

JILLIAN WHITNEY
STAFF WRITER

During the upcoming winter break, most of UNO's services and buildings will be operating under a reduced or changed schedule. Winter break begins on Dec. 22.

Criss Library

Dec. 22 until Jan. 1: CLOSED
Jan. 2: Normal hours resume.

Library Café

Dec. 22 through Jan. 13: CLOSED
Jan. 14: Normal hours resume.

Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building

Dec. 21: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 22: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 24: noon to 6 p.m.
Dec. 24 and Dec. 25: CLOSED
Dec. 26-28: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 29: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 30: noon to 6 p.m.
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Jan. 1: CLOSED
Jan. 2 through Jan. 4: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Jan. 5: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 7 through Jan. 11: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Jan. 12: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 12 and Jan. 13: noon until 6 p.m.
Jan. 14: Normal hours resume.

UNO Registrar, Admissions and Financial Aid offices

Dec. 22 through Jan. 1: CLOSED
Jan. 2: Normal hours resume.

Cashiering and Student Accounts offices

Dec. 24 through Jan. 1: CLOSED
Jan. 2: Normal hours resume.

UNO Bookstore and Convenience Store

Dec. 22 through Jan. 1: CLOSED
Jan. 2: Normal hours resume.

University Village Clubhouse

Dec. 24 and Dec. 25, Dec. 31 through Jan. 1: CLOSED
Office hours during the break will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

Scott Hall Front Desk

Will remain open during break.

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
CASSY LOSEKE
CONTRIBUTOR

Free safe ride home campaign continues through holiday

Who: Hauptman, O'Brien, Wolf & Lathrop P.C., LLO's Safe Ride Home Program.

What: Free cab rides for those impaired from the effects of alcohol.

Where: The Omaha area.

When: Today through Jan. 1 at 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Why: To decrease the amount of drunk drivers and increase road safety during the holidays.

How: Those of age and needing a ride home can call Happy Cab at (402) 339-8294 and charge the fare to Hauptman, O'Brien, Wolf & Lathrop.

Summer study abroad course in Peru

Who: Office of Latino/Latin American Studies, with the Department of Sociology, the Service Learning Academy and the UNO Distance Education program.

What: Undergraduate and graduate study abroad classes with Dr. Olga Celle.

Where: Lima, Peru.

When: Registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 17; travel dates May 18-June 1, 2008.

Why: To learn the effects of globalization on the urban population in Lima through a hands-on course and travel experience.

How: Register online at www.unomaha.edu/ollas with \$100 deposit.

PRSSA launches campus Toys for Tots campaign

Who: UNO Chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America and the School of Communication.

What: Donation drive for U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots campaign.

Where: Room 140 of Arts and Sciences Hall.

When: Now through Dec. 21.

Why: To provide new toys to needy children in the Omaha area.

How: Drop off your donations to the campaign location.

Child Care Center calls for Giving Tree donations

Who: Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women & UNO Child Care Center.

What: Donation drive.

Where: Child Care Center, near the Thompson Alumni Center.

When: Now through end of semester.

Why: To assist the children supported by the Child Care Center.

How: Visit the Child Care Center to view the giving tree or go online

to mbssc.unomaha.edu/unoccc/cccanouncement.php for a list of requested supplies.

Participants needed for Ph.D. research study

Who: Faculty, staff, students or community members 19 years or older who can read and write English.

What: Research study.

Where: Online (30-45 minutes) and in-person (30-60 minutes).

When: In-person session held according to schedule of participants.

Why: To enable a UNO student to complete her thesis while earning a \$10 gift certificate (for the online portion) and \$20 in cash (for the in-person portion).

How: Begin the online session at surveymonkey.com/UNOHermanDissertation.

Maverickland blog has new home

Who: University Affairs.

What: New location for the Maverickland blog.

Where: maverickland.unomaha.edu.

When: Today, Dec. 14.

Why: To raise awareness of UNO activities and events.

How: Go online to maverickland.unomaha.edu to find information about UNO events.

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Crime Log

COMPILED BY
CASSY LOSEKE
CONTRIBUTOR

Monday, Dec. 3

4:30 p.m. A student reported the theft of personal property from Criss Library. The incident occurred between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 4

5 p.m. Student reported the theft of personal property from Allwine Hall. Incident occurred between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5

12:35 p.m. A student reported the theft of personal property from Lot 11. Incident occurred between 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4, and 9 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5.

10:05 p.m. Campus Security responded to a report of a suicidal student at Scott Village. Omaha Police responded. It was determined the student was neither a threat to themselves or others. Omaha Police departed with no further action taken. Student referred for counseling.

Thursday, Dec. 6

3:42 a.m. Campus Security responded to Scott Village regarding a student's report of suspicious noises at their apartment window. No suspects were located.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

1:40 a.m. Staff member reported theft of University Property from the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. The incident occurred between 6 a.m., Nov. 20, and 1:40 a.m., Dec. 11.

THE Gateway

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Professors look at Xmas traditions

COMMENTARY BY
ANDREW BURDIC
CONTRIBUTOR

While not every American celebrates Christmas, the tradition's history and effects are felt throughout the nation, regardless of beliefs.

These traditions and beliefs are many times shrouded in mystery and confusion, so several UNO professors came together this holiday season to decode the history behind the holiday.

"Christmas has become a holiday for everything, so it shouldn't be religious," said John Grigg, a UNO history professor. "But religion was the original reason for the holiday."

Today, in a world of Black Fridays and online purchasing, commercialism has taken some of the Christmas joy out of the holiday. Susan Maher, chair of the English Department, explained that Christmas marketing really took off in Victorian England, particularly with Victorian Christmas stories.

"The fact that we have *A Christmas Carol* still being performed across the country shows its considerable influence," said Maher. She said Charles Dickens, the author of *A Christmas Carol*, was especially interested in addressing the materialism in his world.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Maher said an example of successful Christmas marketing in America was Frank Baum.

"*The Wizard of Oz* books were Christmas books," Maher said. "A new one was published every Christmas." Paul Williams, a professor of religious studies at UNO, said as the Industrial Revolution gained steam, Christmas changed as well.

"You are seeing the rise of industrialism in America. One thing about Washington Irving [the author of *The Night Before Christmas*] and Dickens is that they are trying to come to terms with the gritty

realities of radical class disparity, so they want to see an event that all levels of society can gather around."

However, despite its later image, the beginning of Christmas is widely debated.

Charles King, a history professor, said, "The usual theory is that Christmas is an attempt by the early church to create a competing holiday."

Several sources point to older festivals as the foundation for the Christmas holiday.

"The birthday of Mithras was celebrated [on] Dec. 25," said Associate Professor of History Jeanne Reames, who has studied the history of the early Christian church. "He was born in a cave and visited by shepherds. Also, the giving of gifts was part of the festival of Saturnalia."

Many also believe Saturnalia, a Roman festival, echoed the ideas of a bitter lower social class.

"Almost all religious traditions have some kind of festival that allows for the inversion of social order," Williams said.

The festival of Saturnalia was a Roman holiday that lasted for several days around the time of the winter solstice. The master would serve a feast for his slaves, and the slave would be temporarily declared free.

The meaning of the holiday the early Christian church offered to replace festivals like Saturnalia was focused on the birth of Jesus Christ. However, even in the Bible, there are few references to the nativity scene.

"The birth narratives appear only in Matthew and Luke, and are considered later additions to the books," said Reames. "In the early church, Christmas was a poor third behind Easter and Pentecost."

Regardless of its origins, though, Christmas has risen to a status historically beyond that of its early roots. Now it is deeply integrated into American culture, and a part of a tradition that brings people of many diverse backgrounds together to enjoy the holidays.



photo by Bill Wendt

Sharif Liwaru, Cultural Awareness Programs adviser, lights the Kwanzaa candles. The red candles represent the past; the black candle represents unity and the green represent hope for the future.

Kwanzaa celebrations bring university, community together

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

Celebrating an African holiday on the same day the campus is covered in snow may seem out of place to some, but just tell that to UNO's African students, who held their annual Kwanzaa celebration on Dec. 6 in the Milo Bail Student Center.

Translated from the Swahili meaning "first fruits," Kwanzaa is a celebration that brought food, music and cultural learning to the university's students, faculty and staff.

"Students often times do not feel they have permission to learn about other cultures," said Sharif Liwaru, the adviser for Cultural Awareness Programs. "That's why we have the Kwanzaa event. Now you know when you hear someone talking about it, you know a little bit more about [Kwanzaa]."

Lizabet Arellano, a UNO graduate, spoke at the event on the importance and meaning of the festival.

"Kwanzaa is a celebration that began right after we succeeded in having the American people to officially recognize our civil rights with the Civil Rights Act," Arellano said. "It came out of our struggle for mental and physical freedom, which is a struggle that largely a lot of us feel we're still dealing with today."

The holiday consists of seven days, each devoted to a different principle. The celebration starts on Dec. 26, with Umoja (Unity) and ends on New Year's Day with Imani (Faith).

"Kwanzaa for me, provided an opportunity to celebrate the freedom I had in my own skin, to find darkness beautiful and to find a place where we can join together in unity as a people," Arellano

See **KWANZAA**: Page 20

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

All international Students with F & J Visa Status

If you have health insurance not from UNO, you will be billed for UNO insurance

In order to waive the charges, your plan must be reviewed by Marcia Adler at Student Health Services, MBSC 1st Floor before: **January 31st, 2008**

THIS MUST BE DONE EACH SEMESTER!



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have never walked away from a class and thought "that was an easy A". Maybe it's just because I'm not the normal college student and common sense comes to me much easier than books but I have never walked away from a class here at UNO and thought that was cake. How can you say that the more time you spend at UNO makes you dumber? If your parents are professors, they should feel insulted. How can you say that school isn't challenging enough? We have some of the most brilliant professors here.

I have never met a teacher that just hands out answers. I don't know what you're majoring in, but I know a half a dozen people that are all majoring in different colleges here, and have never had that happen to them. And only two tests per semester? This semester alone, I'll have taken five tests in two different classes by the time the semester is over. Maybe this is one reason why students can't graduate in four years because they need the homework. I hear a lot of I have to study, but not a lot of I have homework. I'm not saying these tests aren't challenging, because in my opinion, they are.

What is making you feel dumber? Is it the fact that teachers are doing their job and giving you assignments, and papers to write? Every semester I have a sigh of relief that it's over and I'm that much closer to graduating. I also feel smarter, and proud knowing I just made myself one of the best competitors for the job market because I am now more educated.

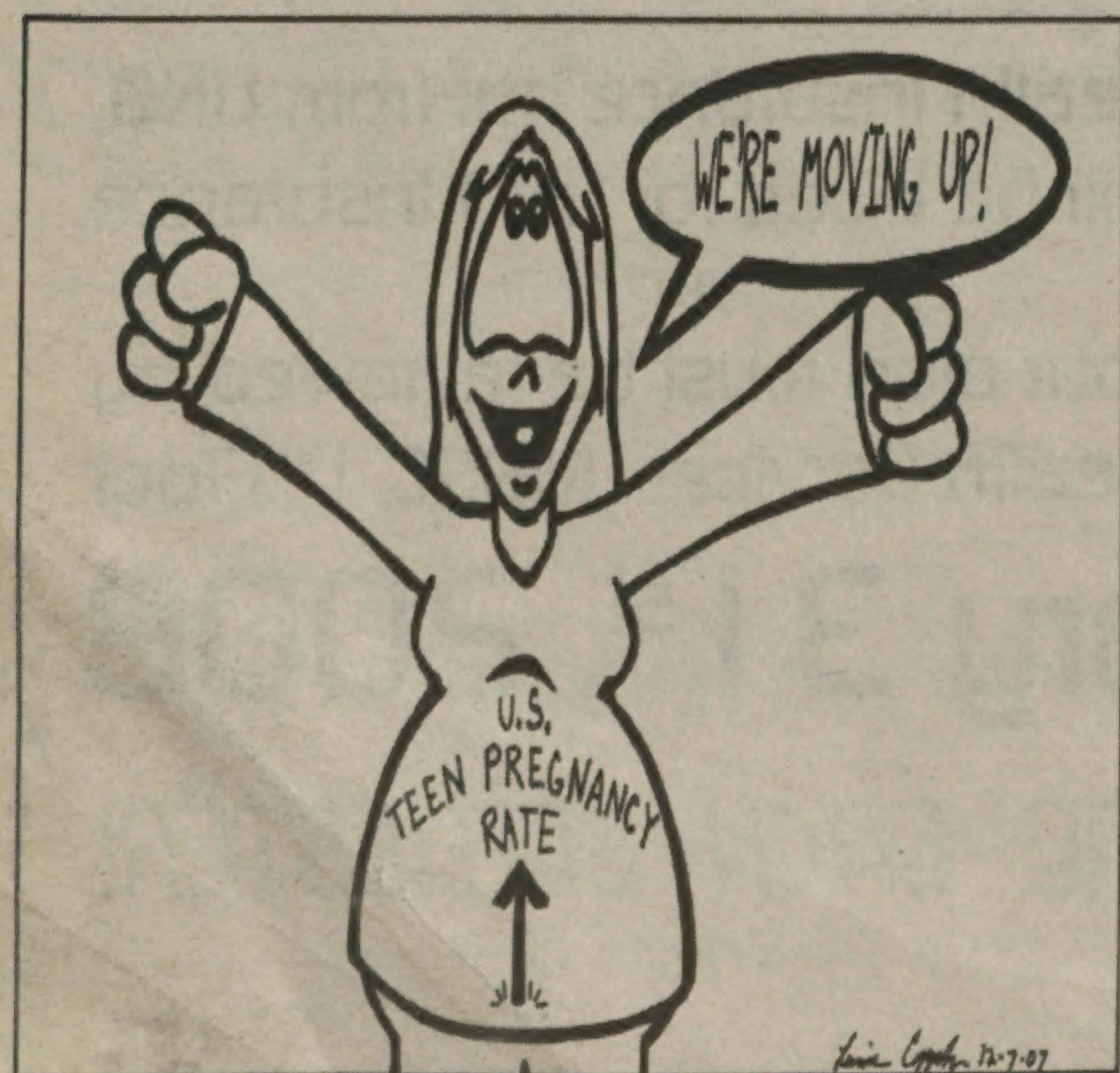
How can you say it's acceptable to miss a week of school? If I were to miss an entire week of school or even two to three days, I would be so far behind; I don't know how I would catch up. Missing days of school isn't because it's acceptable, it's because the students that do it are lazy and irresponsible. Almost every one of my teachers since I started at this University requires you to come to class not only as part of your grade, but missing too many days will get you removed from the class.

You say you have senioritis? Five years is normal these days. My long awaited graduation date will also take five years. There are no more four-year programs. Unless you don't work, and take 18 credit hours a semester and never fail a class, it's probably not going to happen in four years.

I'll agree, there are a lot of hoops to jump through and it is getting really old having to do it every semester. But there isn't a college or university where that's not going to happen. I'll also agree that we all pay a lot of money to go here, and when class time has started; I want to be learning what I'm going to be tested over, not what they did over the weekend. But this is something that doesn't happen very often, and once again, is going to happen anywhere you go.

If your whole article was about how much you hated your job, then why did you take it out on this University? If you are so bitter about your job that you have to put down professors and doctors, maybe you should get a new job. After all you are about to graduate from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, who wouldn't want to hire you?

Angela Bridgeford
Junior, General Business Studies



Guest Voice: Westroads shootings give pause, opportunity to reflect on holiday season

Jake Buckingham is a Gateway contributor who reported on the tragic shootings at Westroads Mall on Dec. 5 as a news photographer for WOWT. He was off duty that afternoon when he joined reporters, photographers and camera crews in the media frenzy that surrounded the shootings.

The brisk air and bitter cold of one afternoon did little to drown out the sounds of sirens and people who were screaming and yelling.

They stood in fear and were overcome by emotion as tears of sadness fell to their cheeks and froze in the cold winter's wind. They embraced each other with gentle hugs and kisses.

It was 2:30 p.m. when I pulled up to Omaha's Westroads Mall. It was a scene of chaos as police officers and members from the squat team and the FBI surrounded the building.

Bullet wounds and the actions of one individual claimed the lives of eight innocent people and the gunman himself. What was supposed to be a day of Christmas shopping at the mall quickly turned into one of the deadliest acts of violence in Nebraska's history.

One by one, bodies were carried out of the building on stretchers by paramedics and police officers. People's lives hanged in the balance as rescue squad after rescue squad pulled up to the scene, rescue personnel in tow not knowing what to expect.

The police helicopter hovered loudly and very low above the trees and streetlights. The sun peaked over the horizon, perhaps offering a glimmer of hope on a chilly December afternoon on a day that changed the lives of so many people.

While scrunched down in the middle of a group of reporters, producers and photographers, I listened carefully as Omaha Police Sgt. Teresa Negron announced

that nine people had died as a result of bullet wounds from a rifle.

It was a killing spree that sent shockwaves throughout the entire nation.

Nine people lost their lives in just six minutes. I was numb from head to toe and my heart sank when I heard the number of fatalities announced. We were all in a state of shock and disbelief.

How and why could such a tragedy happen here in the middle of America? The truth is it can happen anywhere.

The shooting victims were moms, dads, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, cousins and friends to so many people. They had children and grandchildren.

I could not help but think about my own family and friends.

After a tragedy like this, it really causes one think about life and what it really means this holiday season. This tragedy brings to mind the true meaning of Christmas.

Forget about the big screen TVs, the gift cards and money, the iPod and diamond earrings. Give a gift to someone that is worth having. Give them company. Spend time with family and friends and cherish those moments because tomorrow is never guaranteed.

It was a cold December afternoon, the Christmas lights on the Von Maur building shined brightly.

Police crime scene tape surrounded the area. Clouds of moisture and smoke erupted from the trembling mouths of people who were crying and shaking nervously in the bitter cold. The cool, bright blue sky combined with the colors of the late-afternoon horizon and the sounds of sirens and gunfire on that fateful day create the most intense picture.

It is an image I will never forget for the rest of my life.

Reflecting upon my opportunity at the Gateway

Life As I See It



Ashlee Schuette

Here I am trying to write my last column for the Gateway. Forever.

It's sad, really. I like writing for the Gateway. While it was some of the most tiring (literally) and frustrating work I've had to do during my college years - even above more than half of my schoolwork - it was also the most beneficial to my career.

It amazes me how many students there are in the school of communication. It amazes me even more to know hardly any of them write for the Gateway. If you're paying \$154.75 per credit hour to sit in a classroom and get experience, you're doing yourself a grand injustice.

Granted, there are some really terrific professors in the school of communication. Theresa Lamsam, Karen Weber and Sherrie Wilson have been some of the most influential teachers I have had the pleasure of working with. They don't drone on and on about meaningless subjects. They actually show you how things should be done or they'll bring people in to show you. They'll even take the time to take your class all the way downtown to a city council meeting. Boring as they are, it gives you a heads up to what you'll have to do if you're planning on actually succeeding in journalism.

If you don't understand something, they'll make time to make sure you do. They won't give you a book to write a critical analysis paper on but teach you nothing about it. And I sincerely thank them for everything.

Above all, they tell their students to write for the Gateway. It's important and they realize that. I wish there was a way to get more students to write. In my opinion, the number of UNO journalism students succeeding in the work force would most definitely go up.

For those of you who are nearing the end of your college career, write for the Gateway! Trust me, it will be some of the best experience you will get. Listen to the editors when they send back your story for edits. They aren't trying to humiliate you or tell you you're a bad

writer. Chances are you're definitely not but no one is perfect. It is frustrating to receive a story covered in red marks but it will only make you a better writer in the end.

If you want to receive that job at the Omaha World-Herald, you have to work for it. Writing clips will be some of the biggest help you'll receive when applying for jobs.

Don't delay! Get to the Gateway office, located in the Milo Bail Student Center and start writing today!

Good luck! Maybe I'll see you out in the journalism field someday.

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More meaningful than a ring

With the holidays right around the corner, everyone has been shopping for the perfect present. Overturning stores and tearing up the malls, Americans will continue to search for the one meaningful object moments before it quiets and darkens.

In particular, my clueless boyfriend has been racking his brain for the ideal gift to give me.

Insisting that my present be meaningful, something that I would enjoy, something I would use more than just occasionally and something that could serve as constant reminder of his love for me, I told him what I wanted.

But instead of taking my suggestion/command, as he calls it, to heart, he shook it off as me being a needy and greedy girlfriend (which I am, I do not deny).

Continuing to explore potential ideas by bouncing them off my best friend, he kept coming up empty and back to my original suggestion. He even went so far as to create a Facebook group to target my family members and wider circle of friends, but everyone, knowing what I deeply yearn to receive, gave him the same answer, the answer he didn't want to hear.

He tells me he doesn't understand the attachment women have to jewelry. And you know what? I don't really understand it either – just as I don't understand men and their attachment to bad baseball teams. But I still respect the feeling. I don't understand it! But I'll still respect it.

Anyway, I want a ring.

But not just any ring: a promise ring. Forget about the engagement ring, the wedding ring, all those other silly rings. I want a promise ring.

Contrary to many beliefs, this promise ring is not meant to be a pre-engagement ring. Some may think that a promise ring is the prelude to an engagement, which is the prelude to a marriage. But that's not what

it's about to me.

A promise ring, to me, is meant to serve as a symbol for our relationship and the love we have for one other. Its simplicity and beauty is supposed to be a constant reminder of what love is about and how fragile life can be. Looking back at the past week and the tragedy our community has shared, it's easy for me to understand.

But for others, a promise ring may mean different things. And that's OK. Its meaning is definitely something open for interpretation.

Curious as to what others feel its meaning is while discussing it with my roommate, I, being the nerd that I am, went to Wikipedia and searched "promise ring." A large list of meanings popped up and I began to read through it.

Midway through, I came to a realization that no matter how fervently I insist, demand or command my boyfriend give me the ring I picked out while shopping together last weekend, it doesn't really matter. Not in the big picture, or in the end of it all.

All that matters is that he's with me, that I can snuggle in his arms and feel safe and secure and know that I am his and he is mine. We get so caught up in materialism and the fakeness of this world that we forget what really matters the most. I know I do.

So this holiday season, I will be sure to remember that presents, and a ring, are great, but the best gift is those three most complicated words that could so easily be spoken to everyone I hold dear: I love you.

Because I do.

I love you.

- Cassy Loseke

Comments? E-mail me at cassy.loseke@unogateway.com.

He gave me a promise ring
for my present



Oh honey, I went for the
whole promise set

- Matthew Vollmann

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is an appeal to student journalists to fill in the gaps in the coverage of the Nebraska mall shooting.

Media coverage of the mall shooting, thus far, is remarkably similar to the coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings – get to the scene quickly, constructed timelines, identified the shooter, and interview firsthand witnesses and the people who knew him.

But in all the media frenzy over the Virginia Tech shootings, there was never any scrutiny of the State Board responsible for mental health services in the Virginia.

In 2005, according to records on the Virginia State Web site, the Virginia state mental health board canceled 4 out

of 7 meetings, and since the Virginia Tech shootings, there is no record of discussion of safety, quality control, or quality assurance.

The Virginia press covered none of this. Editors in Virginia were quick to pound the table, and demand accountability in the public mental health system, but they never published the basic facts necessary for citizens to hold their government accountable.

I urge student journalists in to take the lead in examining the state agencies and citizen boards responsible for public mental health services in Nebraska and to fill in the gaps which will be left by "professional" journalists.

Sam Mela
Fairfax, Virginia

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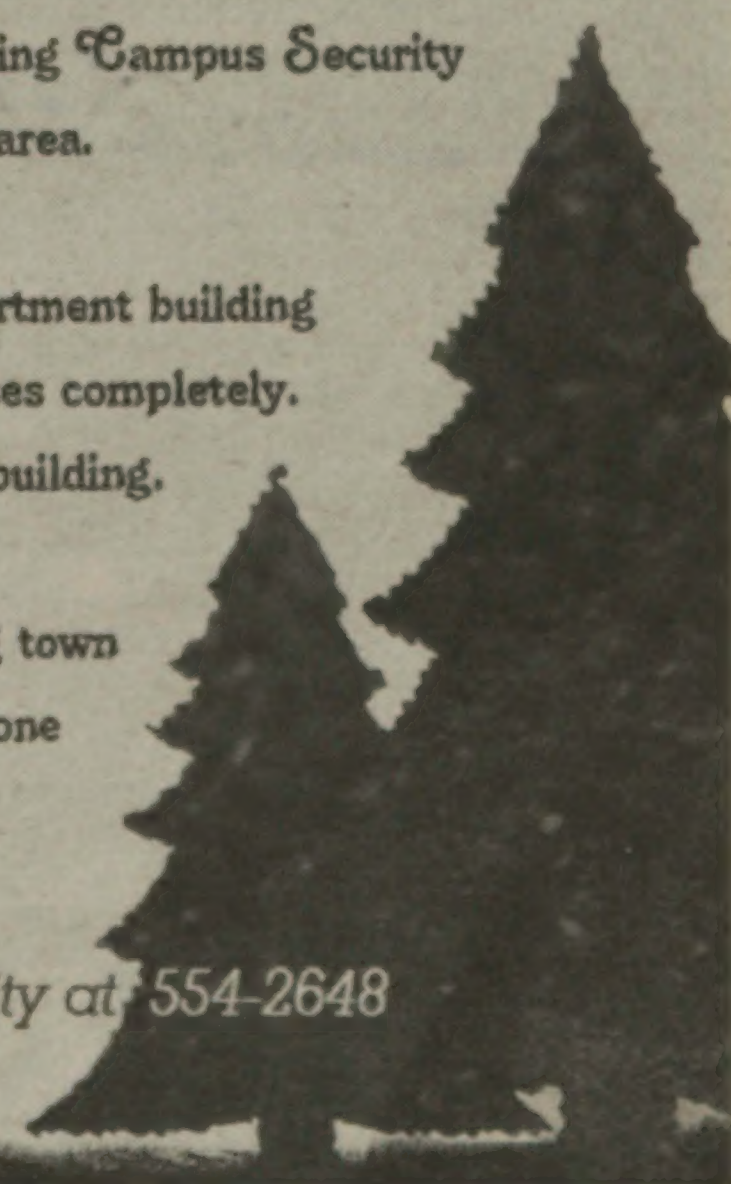


**CAMPUS SECURITY
offers holiday safety tips**

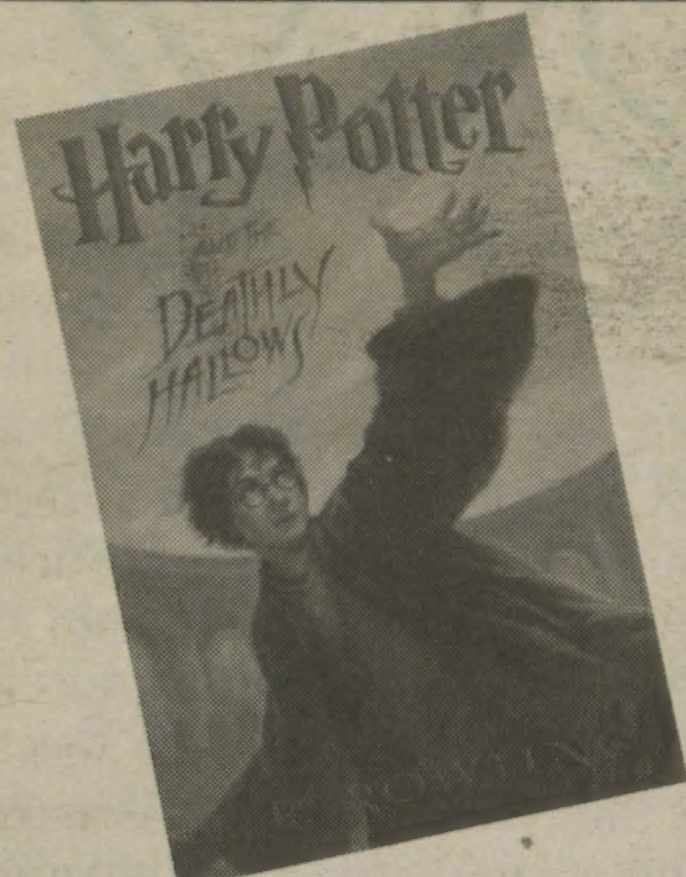
Campus Security would like
to remind the campus community of some
common-sense safety tips to practice during the holiday season.

- ❶ When a person leaves his or her room or office, lock it up, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- ❷ Avoid leaving valuables or packages in plain view in a vehicle. Place them in the trunk or between the seats. When possible, do so before parking.
- ❸ During the holiday break, take valuables home from campus, offices, and residence halls.
- ❹ Anyone who is going to be working on-campus late in the evening or when few people are around should consider advising Campus Security so that an officer can pay special attention to the area.
- ❺ Anyone entering a locked residence hall, apartment building or campus building should make sure the door closes completely. Strangers should not follow anyone into a secure building.
- ❻ Students who live on-campus and are leaving town for the holidays should make sure they have someone keeping an eye on their residence and leave emergency contact information.

For more information, call Campus Security at 554-2648



Holiday Gift Guide



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

As the last installment of the wildly popular Harry Potter series, this bewitching story is perfect for the avid reader amongst your family and friends. Complete with tension, death, combat, fantasy and friendship, it'll be sure keep you on the edge of your seat through the entire wild ride.

LOVE IN THE
TIME OF
CHOLERA



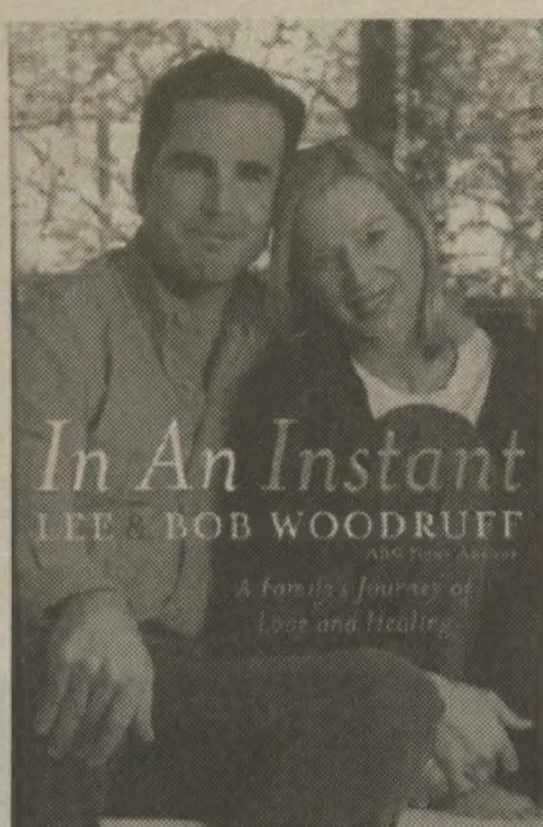
Gabriel
García Márquez

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

This tale of unrequited love details three souls who are caught in the midst a love triangle that spans over the course of 50 years. It was recently made into a movie, but like most novels made into movies, the book is far more compelling. *Love in the Time of Cholera* is ideal for the romantic at heart.

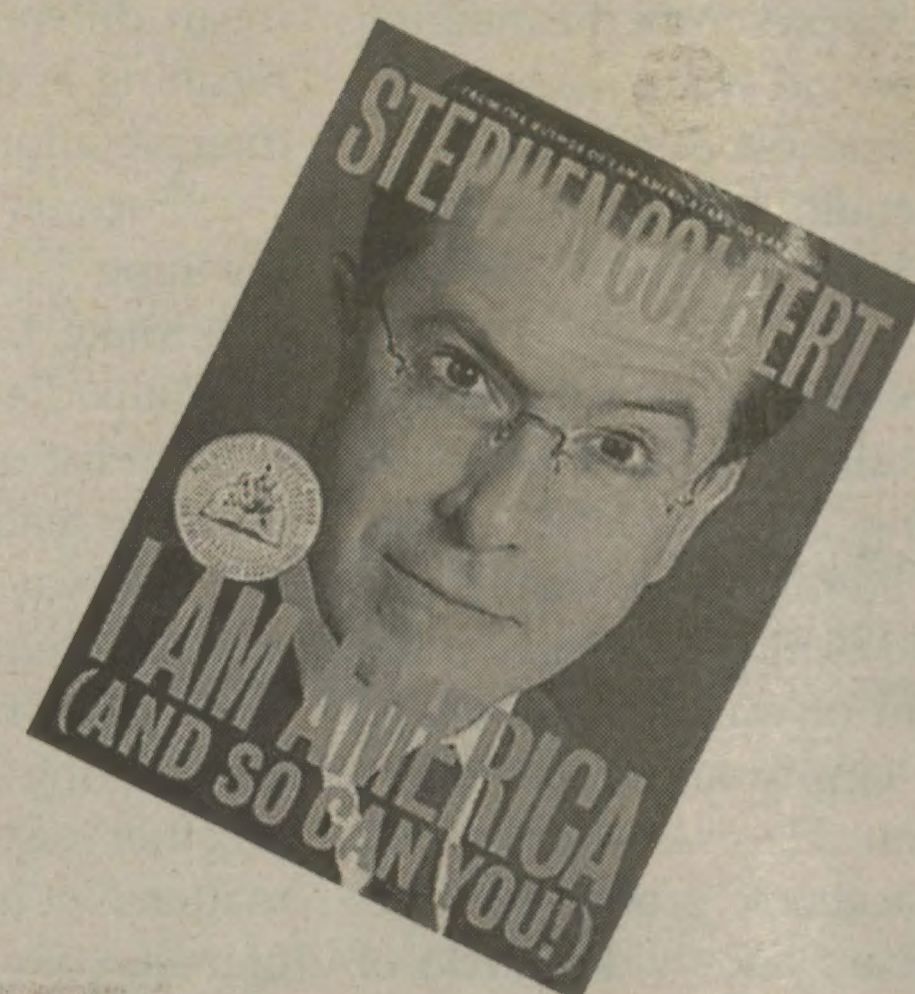
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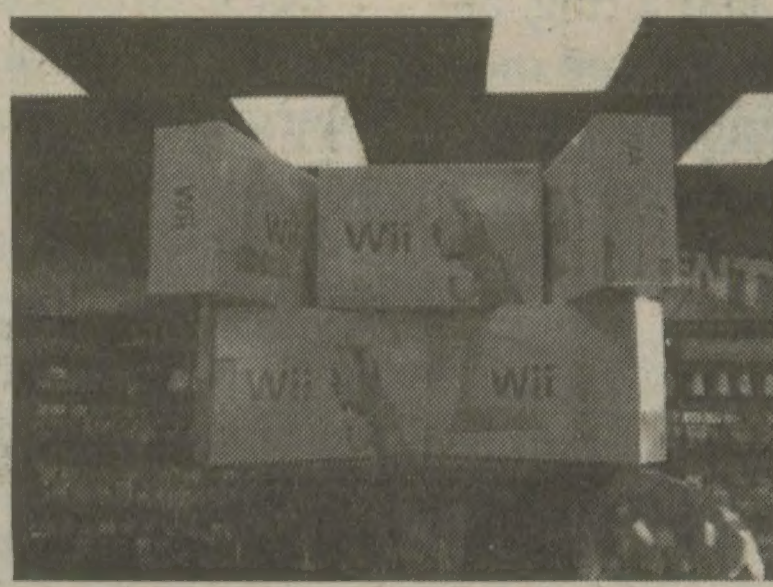
In An Instant: A Family's Journey for Love and Healing by Bob and Lee Woodruff

A powerful, heroic tale of ABC news reporter Bob Woodruff and his near-death experience while filming in Iraq. *In An Instant* recounts Woodruff's recovery process and struggles while overcoming this traumatic experience. This book is raw and chilling, making it a hard one to put down.



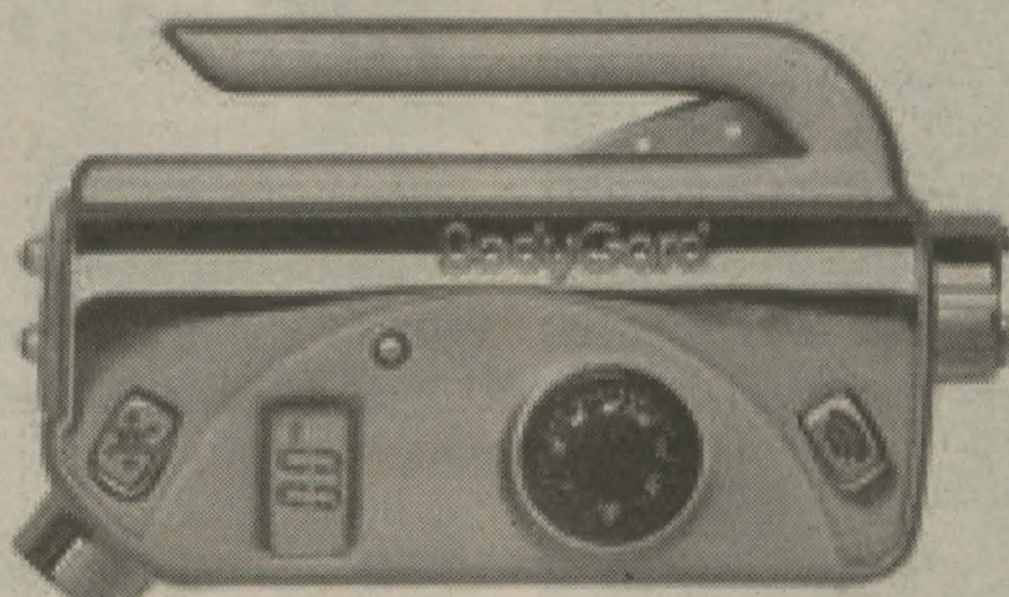
I Am America (and So Can You!) by Stephen Colbert

Complete with his political satire and intellectual humor, author Stephen Colbert narrates the story of America, which is loosely based on the comedian's life. If you're a fan of *The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report*, this book is perfect for you. It's a book that will keep you laughing all the way through.



Nintendo Wii

Although it was released in November 2006, the Nintendo Wii continues to be in very high demand. This video game system not only interactive with a wireless remote, but it allows its users to create their own avatar. The Nintendo Wii is sure to make any gamer happy this holiday season, the only problem is trying to find one before they disappear off the shelves.



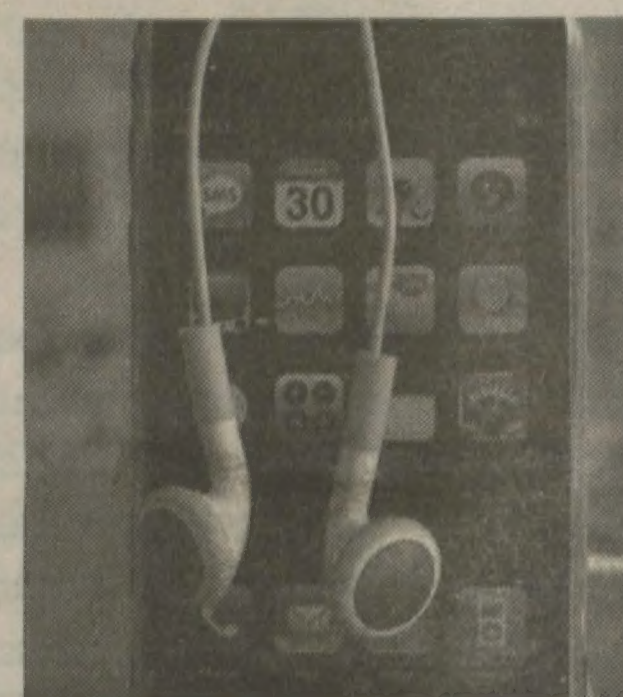
Swiss Tech BodyGard 7-In-1 Platinum Series Emergency Tool

No bigger than the size of your fist, this emergency tool is perfect for anyone with a vehicle. Its features include a glass breaker, seat-belt cutter, flashlight, distress alarm that can be heard for miles, thermometer and digital tire gauge. For under \$30, this device is not only handy in emergency situations, but gives piece of mind to those on the road.



Disney Flix Video Camcorder

This real video camcorder is scaled down to size for those pretending to star in their own TV show or movie. This is a great toy for kids, allowing them to let their imagination roam wild or follow a storyboard from movies like *Pirates of the Caribbean* or *High School Musical*. Users can even plug the camcorder into their PC to make edits or add graphics to their creative recordings.



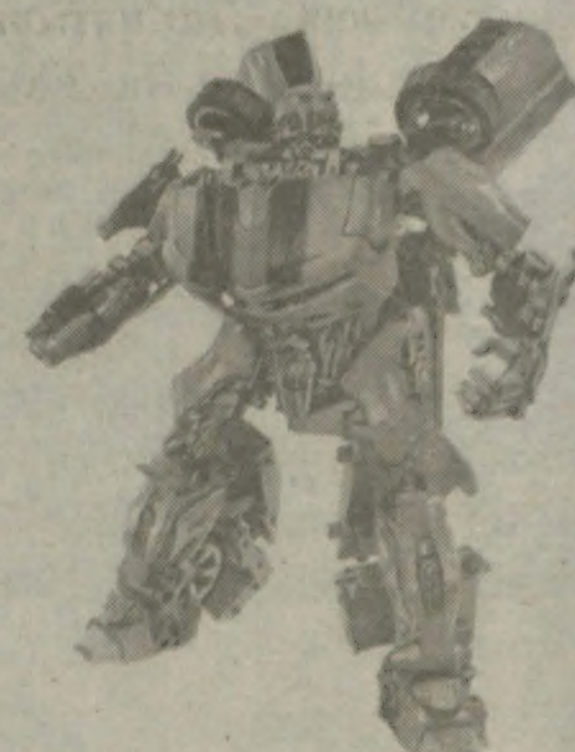
Apple iPhone

Fusing a camera, portable media player and phone all in one, it's easy to see why the iPhone was named *Time* magazine's "Invention of the Year." This high-tech phone can surf the Internet using a handy touch screen and a virtual keyboard. It's not only clever but it's practical, too. George Jetson would be proud.



Digital Photo Frames

For those hard to buy for, digital photo frames are the way to go. These frames not only display several of your favorite pictures, but some even play MP3s and feature built-in speakers.



Transformers Action Figures

Another blast from the past, *Transformers* came back to life after the movie made a splash with audiences this summer. Optimus Prime and Ultimate Bumblebee would make any action fan a happy camper this holiday season.

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Tickle Me Elmo

It's been 10 years since the Tickle Me Elmo craze took over by storm, but this giggly little fella is still disappearing off store shelves all over the country. This season, Fisher Price is re-introducing him as their special anniversary edition.

Although a decade has come and gone, Elmo still remains a great gift for any child.



Hannah Montana Doll

Many young girls were excited to see their idol, Hannah Montana, perform live at the Qwest Center in October. Now, the Disney cash cow appears to have several dolls resembling her likeness that sing songs from her popular TV show. Now her fans can jam out with the pre-teen star without having to turn on the tube.



Live Free or Die Hard

Live Free or Die Hard is a film directed by Len Wiseman. This film features Bruce Willis as John McClane, a cop that answers to no one. Thomas Gabriel, played by Timothy Olyphant, is a criminal mastermind that is bound and determined to bring down the infrastructure of the United States, but when his counterpart, Matt Farrell, gets arrested by McClane, Gabriel gets personal. To seek his revenge, Gabriel kidnaps McClane's daughter and sends McClane on a chase that he will never forget. *Live Free or Die Hard* is available for \$23.99 and is rated

Superbad

Superbad, directed by Greg Mottola will have you laughing out of your stocks. This film features three life-long friends, who are determined to break the nerdy stereotype that has been thrown upon them.

In this funny adventure three friends, Evan, Seth and Fogell, decide to go to the hottest party of their senior year in order to improve their reputations. In their quest for booze and girls, these men realize that the friendship that they have with each other is more important than what other people think about them. *Superbad* is available for \$23.99 and is rated R.



Hairspray

Hairspray is Adam Shankman's adaptation of the popular Broadway musical made famous by John Waters. This movie is set in the 1960s and features Nikki Blonsky as Tracy Turnblad, an overweight outcast whose only dream is to be one of the dancers on The Corny Collins Show. As Turnblad slowly begins to achieve her dream, people like Velma Von Tussle (Michelle Pfeiffer) set out to knock her down. The fact that John Travolta plays Turnblad's mother gives the film an interesting twist. *Hairspray* is available for \$23.99 and is rated PG.



Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End acts as a great finale to the famous trilogy. This film begins with Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) trapped in Davy Jones' locker. It is up to Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) to rescue their friend from his caged fate. In order to do this they travel to Singapore in order to team up with famous pirate Sao Feng (Chow Yun-Fat). In this adventurous tale of romance, courage and friendship, Turner learns through his selfless sacrifices what life is really all about.



Country: Carrie Underwood, *Carnival Ride*

Winner of the "Video of the Year," "Female Video" and "Best Video Director" at the 2007 CMT Music Awards, Carrie Underwood's passionate vocals will take you on a ride that you will never forget.

Hip-Hop: Kanye West, *Graduation*

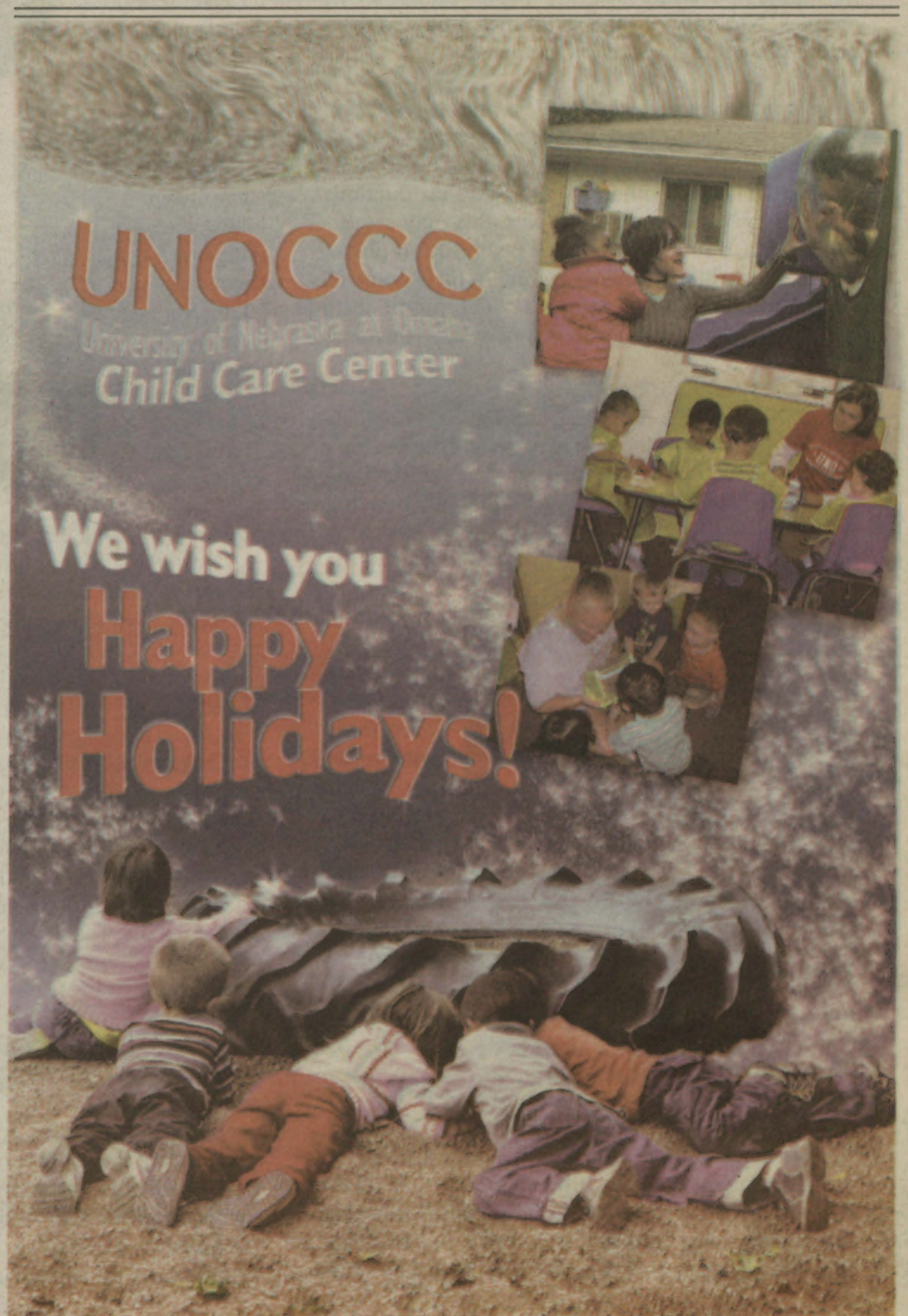
With eight nominations for the 2007 Grammy Awards, Kanye West has returned to school you in all aspects of hip-hop.

Rock: Seether, *Finding Beauty in Negative Spaces*

After a long separation, Seether has come back with a new album that will rock your socks off.

Alternative: The Shins, *Wincing the Night Away*

Songs like "Phantom Limb" will take you to that peaceful place, making the night slowly fade away.



THE GATEWAY'S BEST OF 2007 LISTS

Albums

COMMENTARY BY
CHARLEY REED
A&L EDITOR

Radiohead – *In Rainbows*

Spitting in the Recording Industry Association of America's eye by allowing fans to pay whatever they want for a pre-release version of *In Rainbows* is only one reason why the band's sixth full-length album made headlines this year. The first release from the band in four years, *In Rainbows*, which will release in the U.S. in January, is a more mature release from an already groundbreaking group. While the band is best known for songs like "Creep" and "There There," chances are new releases like "Jigsaw Falling into Place" and "Bodysnatchers" will define the band when all is said and done.



Iron and Wine – *Shepherd's Dog*

Yes, fine... it's got a bit too much of a Paul Simon vibe to be truly original but dammit it just sounds so good. The singer/songwriter/crooner Sam Beam returns for his third full-length album with a full band backing him up this time. This soft and melodic folk-rock release is beautiful in

its simplicity. Although *Shepherd's Dog* seems like it would have found a more receptive audience in 1967 than 2007 music as good as this is timeless.

Kayne West – *Graduation*

Try as I might, I just can't hate Kayne West. I should despise the man for essentially ripping off riffs and audio samples better than Sean Combs ever did. Unlike Combs, West does it with class and undeniable charm. Songs like "Stronger," "Flashing Lights" and "Goodnight," featuring a sample from Elton John's "Someone Saved My Life Tonight" are just too damned impressive to deny that, while the man may profit from other people's work, he's damned good at it.

Idiot Pilot – *Wolves*

Idiot Pilot isn't a band so much as it's two 20-year olds from Washington, with *Wolves* as their sophomore album. You may never have heard of Idiot Pilot, but I bet you've heard their song "Retina in the Sky." The track was used as the theme to this year's blockbuster film *Transformers*. But, unlike previous artists like Dashboard Confessional, Nickelback and Evanescence, with songs in blockbuster films, Idiot Pilot has remained "undiscovered," and that's unfortunate. In addition to "Retina in the Sky," other tracks like "Last Chance" and "Planted in the Dark" make this the best album you've never heard of.

Theatrical Performances

COMMENTARY BY
NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Zanna, Don't!

The top play of the season had to be *Zanna, Don't!* by Tim Acito. The Omaha performance of this interesting play was staged by SNAP! Productions. Stephen Michael Shelton starred as Zanna, Heartsville High's magical matchmaker. In this intriguing comedy, the world is turned topsy-turvy as the normality of the societal relationships are same-sex couples. Not only did the script rock, but also the actors played their parts phenomenally.

Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches

The next best play of the season was *Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches* by Tony Kushner. This is another one of SNAP! Productions amazing pieces. For the most part, this play acted as a drama, but when Roderick Leon Cotton played Belize, he had the audience rolling in their seats. His confident humor and gorgeous smile brought attitude into the play, making it a more realistic performance.

The Mad Woman of Chailiot

UNO's rendition of *The Mad Woman of Chailiot*, a play by Jean Giraudoux, was no doubt the season's bronze-medal performance. Maria VachaPittack is



mind of her long lost love, Pierre.

an amazing actress and showed the audience several of her talents in her interpretation of the main character, Aurelia. The most touching moment was when shy Juliet (Chelsie Hartness), had the opportunity to ease Aurelia's

Matt and Ben

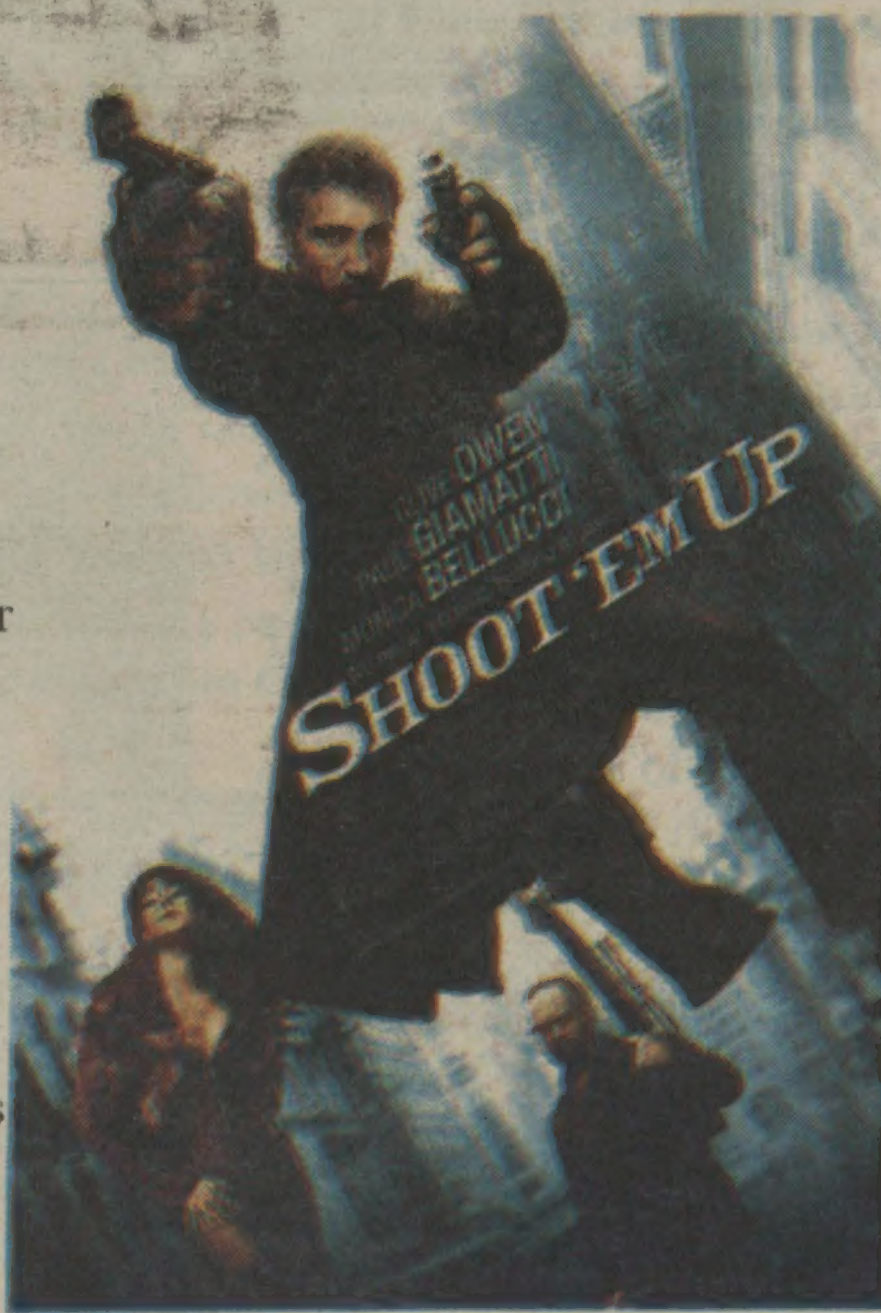
The honorary mention for best play of the season would have to be the Omaha Playhouse's performance of *Matt and Ben*. This play showed audience members the truth behind Matt Damon and Ben Affleck's involvement in *Good Will Hunting*. The interesting thing behind this performance was the fact that both Damon and Affleck were played by females.

Films

COMMENTARY BY
CHARLEY REED
A&L EDITOR

Top Action/Adventure: *Shoot 'em Up*

There's probably no film this year that better encompasses the "action/adventure" title. Oh, sure, you've got your blockbusters like *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* and *Transformers*, but how can you deny the brilliance of a film that has prim-and-proper Clive Owen killing someone with a carrot, a shoot-out while falling from an airplane and easily one of the best soundtracks of the year? That's right. You can't.



Top Horror/Sci-Fi: *The Host*

Even though this film was released in less than 100 theaters in April, there is no film this year that was more suited for Halloween. A Korean send up of the '50s monster movies, this film is not only awesome in how it presents the "creature," but also in how it shows the audience that human arrogance is the greatest evil of all.

Top Musical/Comedy: *Superbad*

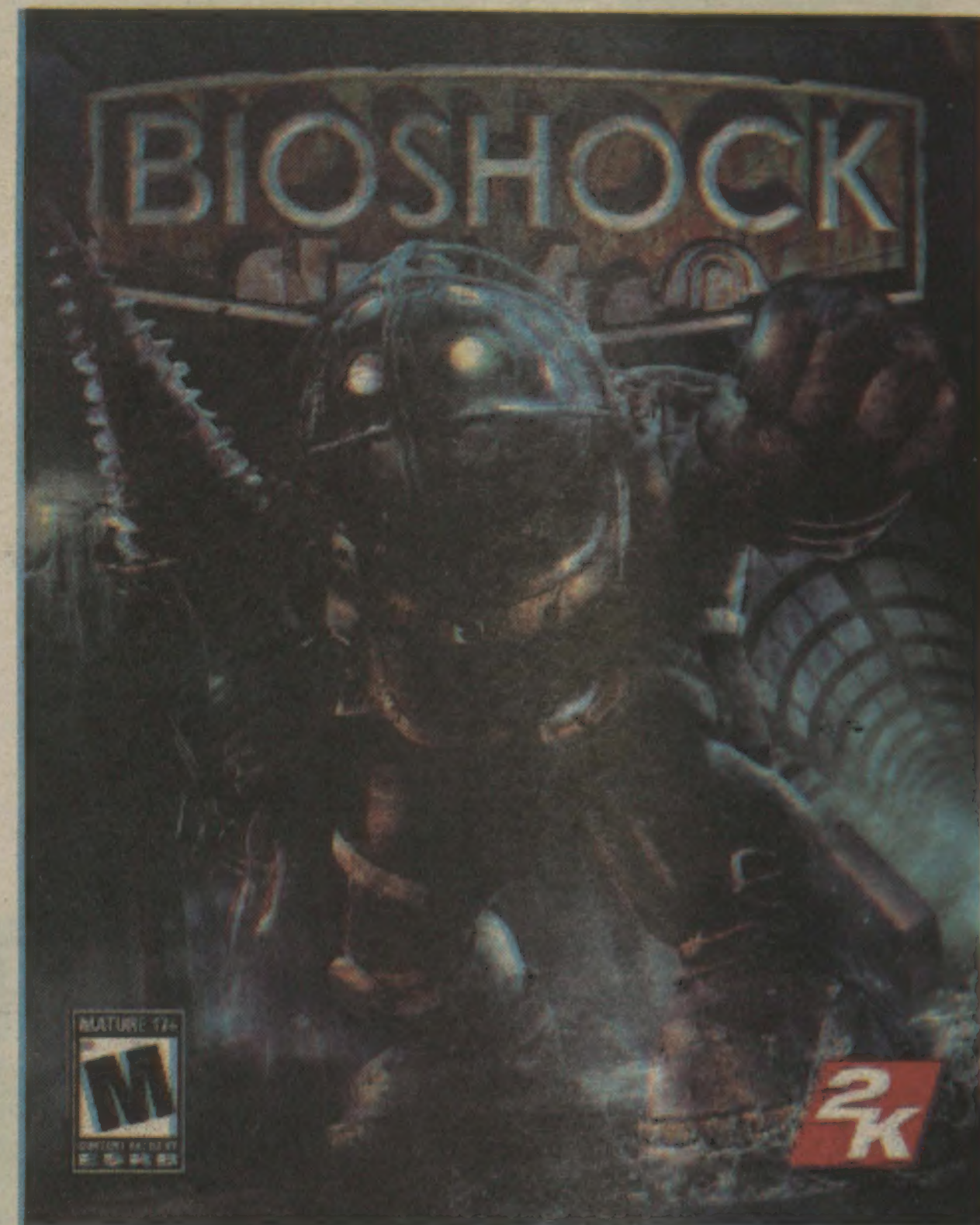
It's been labeled "the next *American Pie*" but that doesn't aptly describe just how good and funny *Superbad* is. From the makers of *40-Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up*, *Superbad* is the best of the bunch as a hilarious coming-of-age tale of two codependent high school seniors. Thanks to *Superbad*, catchphrases like "McLovin," "blow jay" and "sexy burger" will forever be in our lexicon.

Top Romance/Drama: *Control*

By many critics' standards, *No Country for Old Men* has already been declared the best picture of the year. However, Anton Corbijn's *Control* just has more impact. Shot in beautiful black and white with stellar performances from Samantha Morton and Sam Riley, *Control* is a great film without needing to over-think or over-analyze its message. As such, it's as good a musical biopic as any we've seen in the last five years.

Console Games

COMMENTARY BY
AJ ANTON
CONTRIBUTOR



Bioshock (Xbox 360, PC)

Bioshock, the much-anticipated sequel to *System Shock II*, offers one of the best shooters this year. Set in a creepy, dystopian underwater city filled with mutated "splicers" set out to kill you, it offers some of the creepiest atmospheres available.

Using genetic material called Adam, you yourself mutate and gain the ability to shoot lightning, fire, even to release killer bees from your arm in an attempt to survive.

The story is also excellent, with amazing plot turns and choices, easily making it one of the better games this year.

Super Mario Galaxy (Wii)

Super Mario 64 defined 3D-platforming games, but it's been awhile since we've heard great things about the Italian plumber. That wait is over as *Super Mario Galaxy* once again shows us that Nintendo still knows how to make excellent games.

Galaxy follows Mario as he attempts to rescue the princess again. Each level features its own small planets, with their own gravity, challenges and excellent boss battles. *Super Mario Galaxy* offers excellent game play, and enough challenge for any gamer, making it one of the best games of 2007.

Halo 3 (Xbox 360)

Halo 3 was one of the most anticipated games this year, and it delivered on all fronts. It had a fun campaign mode, and an amazing multiplayer. *Halo* has such a massive fan base, and at any given time, hundreds of thousands of people can be found playing online. Developer Bungie continues to keep the game fresh as well, with downloadable maps arriving in the near future, as well as customizable and user created game types.

You can't argue with the sales either, as *Halo 3* was one of the fastest selling games in history.

Mass Effect (Xbox 360)

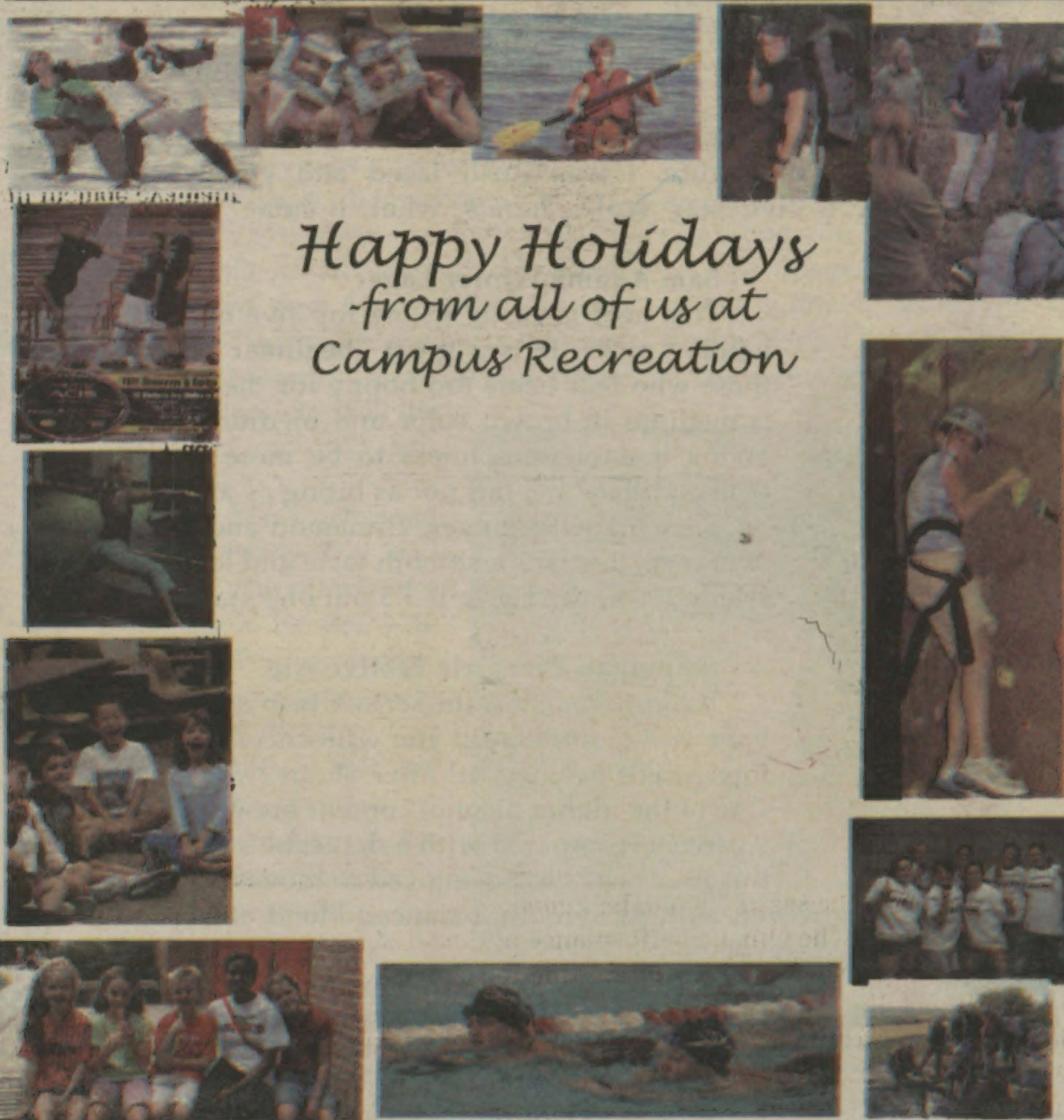
Mass Effect, a Sci-Fi Action RPG from developer Bioware, offers one the most immersive game experiences available. It contains a deep dialogue system, and the choices made with it, lead you down either path of good and evil, which in turn also sways the rest of your squad mates. Real time combat offers intense action, and teammates are commanded with ease.

Mass Effect offers so many choices, customizability, and excellent game play, making it, in my opinion, the best game of this year.



Mav-Rec

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Mav-Rec Fitness and Wellness

Mav-Rec Outdoor Venture Center

Mav-Rec IM Sports

Group-EX	Day	Time	RM	Instructor
Yoga	Monday, Dec 17	12-12:50	230	Vaughnda
Pilates Fusion	Tuesday, Dec 18	12-12:50	230	Jeannie
Yoga	Monday, Jan 7	12-12:50	230	Vaughnda
Pilates Fusion	Tuesday, Jan 8	12-12:50	230	Jeannie
Pilates	Thursday, Jan 10	12-12:50	230	Vaughnda

Friday, December 21
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

\$10 per 15 minutes
-or- \$20 for two time slots
Register in HPER 100.

Walk ins accepted if time permits.

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Andrea Porter, LMT at Santosha

Feeling stressed, have a headache, looking for a way to unwind and relax? Try a 15 minute chair massage to reduce tension and achieve overall better health.

Outdoor Leadership

Thursday, Jan 17th - May 1 7:00pm - 8:00pm.
Clear Trip: April 6th - 8th (Leaves Fri. evening)

For those who wish to take others on outdoor activities, is a prerequisite for OVC trip coordination. An introduction to outdoor leadership, not outdoor activities. Prior outdoor experience is required (i.e. the Backpacking and Orientation Basics class or equivalent experience). The course addresses the major environmental issues and concerns facing the outdoor adventure leader, such as accident management, environmental ethics and use, liability and risk management, and leadership philosophy, styles and competencies. The major emphasis is on accident prevention, but wilderness first aid and rescue are briefly addressed as well. Recreation and Leisure Studies credit is available.

Registration Cost: \$30 UNO/\$50GP Late Fee: +\$15 after 1/6

Snowboard Tuning Workshop

Thursday, January 24th 7:00pm - 8:00pm.

Learn how to get your snowboard out of hibernation and back into peak performance, so you can hit the slopes in style. This FREE workshop will include evaluating your board, waxing, sharpening your edges and binding setup.

Cross-country Skiing

Sunday, January 20, 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Learn about cross-country skiing techniques, equipment, and clothing. Price includes rental fee of all equipment. If there is no snow, the workshop will be canceled. Eat before class and be prepared for the weather. Dress in layers so you can adjust clothing by how much heat you produce. Motion pants or water proof, breathable pants are advised and wool socks are a must.

Call 354-2997 if you have any questions about the class or what to wear. Bring snacks, water, and extra warm clothes in a duffel bag. This workshop starts at the rental center.

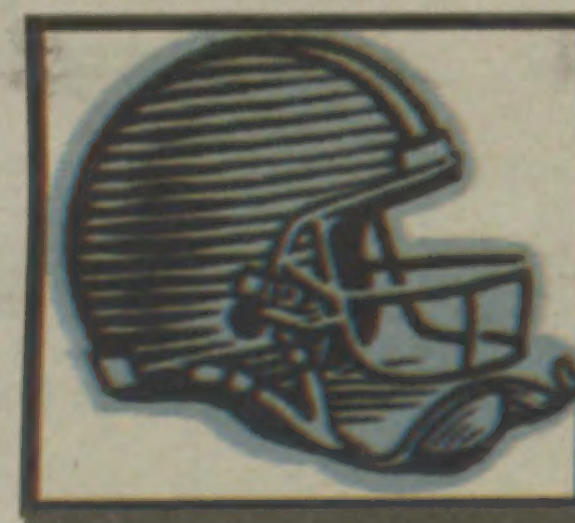
Registration Cost: \$20 UNO/\$25GP

Ladies' Night @ the UNO Climbing Wall

Wednesday, January 16

Ladies get free rental equipment and belay course.
(General Public must still pay the \$3.25 per person gear entrance fee)

Register: December 2 - December 17
Event: December 20 - January 8



Fill out your form in HPER 205. Whoever has the most winning teams at the end of the event will win a prize!

Session 3 events start shortly after winter break!
Registration: January 14 - January 25

Session 3 events include:

5x5 Basketball, 6x6 Volleyball,
6x6 Dodgeball, Racquetball-Doubles,
& Wii Golf-Tiger Woods

Registration is 3 easy steps!

1. Form a team of friends
2. Fill out the sports registration form
3. Pay the deposit fee

Also, ask about being a free agent! If you don't have a team you will be assigned to one!

The Gateway holiday beer guide for your much needed holiday break

COMMENTARY BY
KEEGAN NIEDERDEPPE
CONTRIBUTOR

For many people, the holidays are a time of lights, family, friends, high spirits, hope and giving. For others, it's a cycle of irritating madness and chaos while trying to find that "perfect" gift. But whether you're a scrooge or St. Nick, one thing is certain: Holiday cheer is in holiday beer!

During the first week in December, I set out to do my "research." I plopped myself down on a bar stool at Old Chicago on 78th and Cass streets and asked the bartender to pour me a small sample of every holiday beer on tap.

Had I been anyone else, she may have looked at me like I had a drinking problem, but since I am employed with Old Chicago ... well, she looked at me like I had drinking problem anyway.

She laughed and prepared to see me all "hopped" up on booze. Holiday beers are notorious for having a greater alcohol percentage by volume than other seasonal beers.

I proceeded to take note of the rich flavors and aromas and by the end of my adventure, I was flush faced and googly eyed. Rating the beers on a five star scale, here's what I came up with:

Sam Adams Winter Lager

This beer is easily in my top five of favorite holiday picks. It is a great "beginner beer" for those who fear beers too hoppy for their taste. It is medium in brown color and medium bodied, giving it enough richness to be more flavorful than a Miller Lite, but not as biting as a pale ale.

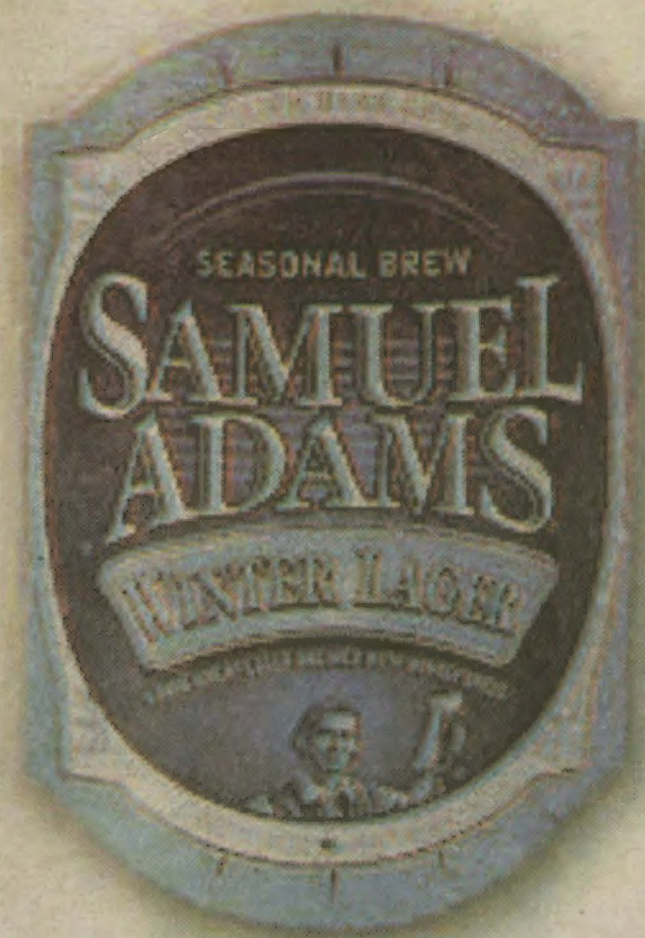
Blended with ginger, cinnamon and a touch of orange, it leaves a smooth taste and leaves you asking for more. I give it 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Empyrean Eccentric Festive Ale

A serious beer for the serious beer drinker, this brew will definitely fill you with cheer. Or, at any rate, you'll be cheerful after about two of them. One of the higher alcohol content brews at nearly 9 percent (compared with a domestic's 4 percent), this beer needs to be enjoyed in moderation. This

proves to be difficult however, with its smooth, balanced blend of hops and grains and its full-bodied flavor.

Brewed right here in Nebraska with a different recipe every year, I give this years blend a whopping 4 out of 5 stars.



Rogue Santa's Private Reserve Ale

It may come in a flashy, big bottle with a happy looking Santa Claus on it, but don't let that deceive your conscious mind. Seriously, don't do it. 1 out of 5.

Anchor Steam Christmas Ale

Ahhhh, the warm, mellow blend of a Christmas tree as a woody grain finish and

low hops will leave you begging for another dark ale. This beer remains at the top of my list, though it's not for everyone.

Again, this is a recipe that changes year to year and I distinctively remember detesting it last season. Better go drink it up before Anchor Steam flubs again! A hands-down 4.5 out of 5 stars.



Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale

For the avid pale ale drinker, Celebration is a royal treat. For me, personally, not being an avid pale ale drinker, I find it to be a bit harsh. Brewed with Chinook, Cascade and Centennial hops give it a very rich flavor and a lingering aftertaste. I'll be generous here: 3 out of 5 stars.

Anheuser-Busch Bourbon Cask Ale

Boring. Honestly, I may as well be drinking a Budweiser and eating a piece of pumpkin bread. This beer has little flavor and if you ask me, I'm going to have to say it's a big flop with 2 out of 5 stars.

New Belgium Frambozen

This holiday beer is certainly a treat and I look forward to it every holiday season. I, like many beer nerds, am a firm believer that fruit and beer don't necessarily go together. However, I also tend to make a few exceptions, and this is one of them. It is a brown ale rich in color with a raspberry aroma, giving it just a tinge of sweetness. This is a 4 out of 5 star situation.

Whether you are a beer connoisseur or just someone who is looking to find something new, holiday beers are to be enjoyed by everyone. Well, everyone 21 and older, that is. Be cautious though, these beers will sneak up on you - and I can guarantee if you have one too many, you will not be filled with holiday cheer the next morning.

As always, drink responsibly and watch out for Santa's Private Reserve!



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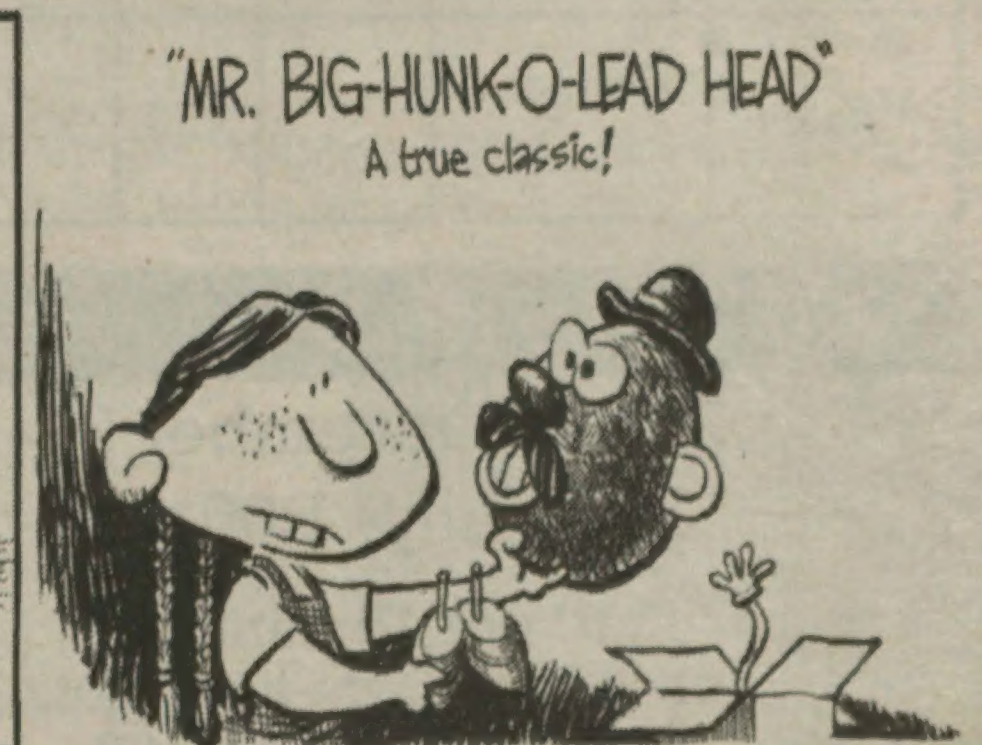
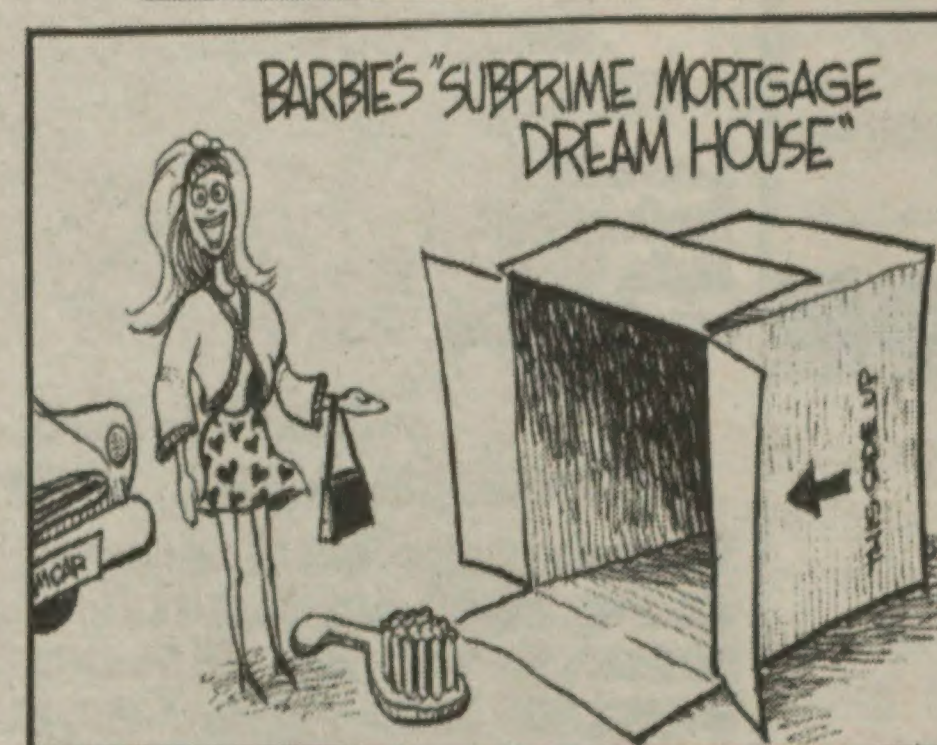
Campus Recruitment

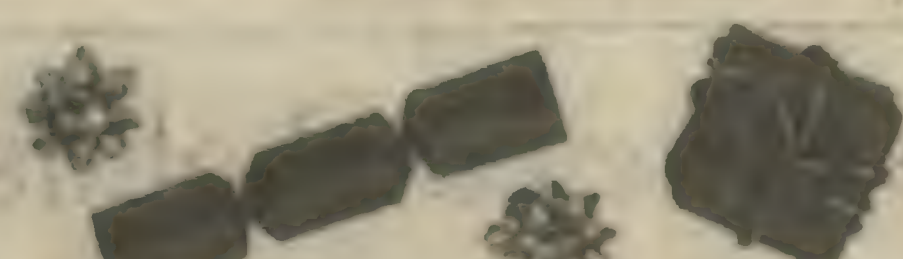
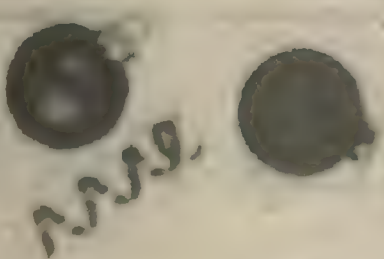
Juliette.brown@nmfn.com

(402) 390-8274



MORE TOYS to AVOID this HOLIDAY...





Head Coach Derrin Hansen huddles with his players during Saturday's 105-91 over Emporia State. The Mavericks are 7-0 for the first time in seven years.

Maverick men beat No. 7 team in the country, improve record to 7-0

KEVIN CLEMENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Maverick basketball team continued their dominance over their opponents Saturday night at the Sapp Fieldhouse. UNO improved to 7-0 on the season by routing No. 7 Emporia State 105-91. The Mavs are 7-0 for the first time in seven years.

Saturday's game was a physical match-up from the get-go. By game's end, four players – Andrew Davison, Caleb Tegtmeier and Dustin Andrew of Emporia as well as Michael Jenkins of UNO – fouled out. Three technical fouls were passed out, with two going against Emporia and one going against Jenkins.

UNO was down big near the end of the first half, but tough defense forced a few turnovers and missed shots to allow UNO to go on a 16-0 run to give them a 50-42 lead at halftime.

The Mavericks set the pace out of the gate in the second half with a breakaway dunk by Justin Peterson. UNO dominated both sides of the ball in the second half with good shooting and tough defense that forced 20 turnovers.

"Our offensive goal is to go down and get a good look at the basket each time down the floor," said Head Coach Derrin Hansen after the win.

This team certainly did find open looks all night as they shot 58 percent for the game and a lights-out 62 percent in the second half for the win.

The Mavs were led by senior Denny Johnston, who had 23 points, five rebounds and four assists in the game. The 23-point total was a career high for Johnston, who was later given North Central Conference player of the week honors for his impressive play. Johnston torched the Hornets by shooting an impressive 9 of 13 from the field, including 3 of 5 from beyond the arc, for the game.

"It was just a physical game between two top 20 teams," Johnston said. "After a win like this it is a great feeling and you got to try to keep it rolling."

Jerry Bennett recorded his third double-double of the season by scoring 11 points and cleaning the glass for 12 boards in the game. Bennett has been dominating the paint out of the gate this season in impressive manner.

"It was a goal of mine from the beginning of the season," said Bennett of his improved post play. "My only goals [now] are to win the game and try to reach a double-double in each game."

Playing a team high 36 minutes in the game, Bennett is truly living up to his billing this season.

"It feels real good considering the outside expectations of the team this season," Bennett said in regards to being 7-0.

Point guard Andrew Bridger played his best game of the year Saturday night. Bridger had a career high eight assists in the game to go along with 18 points.

Justin Peterson and Mitch Albers each scored 15 in the game. Two-time NCC player of the week Jenkins got into early foul trouble and only scored nine points in the contest.

DeAndre Townsend scored a game high 39 points for the visiting Hornets, with 21 of them coming in the second half. The Mavs' tough defense forced the Emporia State star to turn the ball over nine times in the game.

UNO has beaten some stiff competition in their successful effort to stay perfect on the season. The Mavs have now defeated two teams ranked in the Top 10 in their last two contests, both by double-digits, as they beat then-No. 3 Northwest Missouri State on the road only to follow that performance with this Saturday's win. This game also marked the second time this season that UNO has scored over 100 points in a game.

UNO has six more non-conference games left to play before they begin their goal of winning the NCC during the conference's last season. The Mavs will definitely have their hands full as conference play begins this year. UNO finished near the bottom of the NCC last season, but this season's outlook appears to be much different.

The Mavericks will try to remain perfect this weekend as they engage in a rematch with Northwest Missouri. UNO beat the Bearcats earlier in the season by an impressive 14 points. The stage is set for Friday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. in the Sapp Fieldhouse. Come out and watch your Mavericks try to improve to 8-0 on the season.

Mavs cruise to 39-point rout of York College, prepare for a strong finish

BRETT OSTRONIC
STAFF WRITER

UNO women's basketball Head Coach Patty Patton Shearer is excited about her team's attitude and play so far this season.

"It makes them have fun, makes people watching have fun and you have to enjoy effort and enthusiasm," Shearer said.

Last Friday was a prime example of what Shearer was talking about.

With a two-game winning streak on the line, the UNO women's basketball team glided past the Panthers of York College (2-7) with a 93-54 win. The blowout gave the Mavericks their second three-game winning streak of the season and improved their record to 8-1.

The Mavs stormed out to an early 22-9 lead with less than 10 minutes remaining in the first half, putting the Panthers in their review mirror due to timely three-point shooting and pressure defense that led to a plethora of turnovers. By the end of the half, the Mavs' lead swelled to 29 points as they headed into the locker room up a 54-25.

Offensively, the Mavs shot 17 for 38 from the floor in the first half, added eight 3-pointers and scored 25 points off turnovers. Defensively, the Mavs accumulated 16 turnovers, which included eight steals. They held York to 32 percent from the floor and allowed only six second-chance points.

UNO's Alyssa Green led all players with 18 first-half points while Lindsey Klug distributed six assists, and Amanda Brodsack grabbed five rebounds.

As the second half started, it became apparent that the Panthers of York College stood no chance of making a comeback. They were being out-hustled, out-played and out-coached. With nearly seven minutes left in the game, York's deficit had mushroomed to 40 and the Mavs were cruising with a 75-35 lead. They were able to continue their winning ways with a 93-54 final. UNO's 93 points marked its highest point total so far this season.

As for their defensive performance, you could not ask for more. The Mavs forced a season-high 26 turnovers while

amassing 16 steals with two blocks and holding York to its third lowest point total to date.

In all, the Mavs had 20 assists with just 11 turnovers and shot 46 percent from the floor, which included connecting on a season-high 14 3-pointers out of a season-high 32 attempts.

"I thought our assist-to-turnover ratio was great," said Shearer, who is now in her fourth season as UNO's head coach. "We did a much better job moving the basketball and taking care of the basketball."

The Mavericks had four players scoring in double figures with Green, this week's North Central Conference player of the week, contributing a game high



Sophomore Jill Wolf gets hacked by a York player during Friday's game. UNO won 93-54.

20 points. LaToya Wright added 14 in 20 minutes of play. Cayla Hargrove and Ashley Nelson combined for 22 points and four steals.

For their next three contests, the Mavs will be playing within the friendly confines of the Sapp Fieldhouse.

On Dec. 14, the Bearcats of Northwest Missouri State (4-2), led by junior guard Meghan Brue, come to town. After recently suffering a heartbreaking loss on Dec. 8 to then 6-2 Arkansas Tech 87-68, the Bearcats should be on the prowl to get back to their winning ways.

This will mark the first time NWMS has played UNO since the 2004-2005 season in which the Mavs lost to the Bearcats 65-67 at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

Only three days later, UNO will take on the Colorado State-Pueblo ThunderWolves

See **BASKETBALL**: Page 20

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Pair of ties with last-place team leaves hockey team looking for answers

CHARLEY REED
A&L EDITOR

After this weekend, the Maverick hockey team is likely in agreement that the only thing worse than being kissed by your sister is kissing her back.

Coming off a pair of disappointing losses against Notre Dame in South Bend the weekend before, UNO needed to make a statement against the Central Collegiate Hockey Association's 12th-place Lake Superior State Lakers, who were winless coming into last weekend's series at the Qwest Center.

Unfortunately for the Mavericks, a hot goaltender and costly penalties equaled coming away with only two points from back-to-back ties, a first in the program's history.

At 5-7-3 halfway through the season and 4-7-3 in the conference, the real possibility of ending the conference season with single digits in the win column has Head Coach Mike Kemp frustrated.

"I'm disappointed in the way our guys responded," Kemp said after Saturday's 3-3 tie, "Because they didn't respond well enough."

Friday's game against the then 2-11-1 Lakers wasn't a pretty one. Despite 37 shots on goal from UNO compared to LSSU's 15, the score still ended in a 1-1 tie.

A back-and-forth first period ended scoreless for both teams. LSSU's Steven Kaunisto hit a laser shot from the blue line to break the tie at 5:21 of the second period, sneaking it past junior goaltender Jerad Kaufmann, who made his first start since UNO's 5-1 loss to Ferris State on Nov. 16.

UNO's tying marker, and only goal of the game, came from the stick of

forward Tomas Klempa whose extra effort to knock in his own rebound made the score 1-1 in the opening minute of the third period.

However, UNO would be unable to get another goal past Lakers sophomore goaltender Pat Inglis. Despite applying pressure to the Lakers through most of the overtime, including several key chances, nothing hit the back of the net.

"The name of the game was the goaltender," Kemp said. "He was the difference maker."

Saturday night provided a chance for the Mavericks to bounce back and early on, it appeared that they would.

After goals from freshman forward Joey Martin in the first period and a second-period goal from senior captain Bryan Marshall, UNO was up 2-1 going into the third period.

However, three consecutive penalties from Dan Charleston, Bill Bagron and Mike Phillippi put the Mavs in back-to-back 5-on-3 situations. UNO was able to fend off the first onslaught but with just eight seconds left to go in the period Lake Superior's Nathan Perkovich rifled a shot past Kaufmann to tie the game.

"What's frustrating to me is that we didn't come out in the second period and respond," Kemp said. "It was like we were satisfied playing one period and that's not acceptable."

Kemp said the team allowed the Lakers back into the game due to poor decision-making on the ice.

"Selfish penalties at the end of the [second] period put us in a hole," he said. "We should have been out of that period with a 2-1 lead and instead we're 2-2 going into the third and things were tight."



Forward Rich Purslow fights with goaltender Pat Inglis for a rebound attempt. photo by Michelle Bishop

Tight was definitely the best way to describe how the third period played out. LSSU went up 3-2 just over five minutes into the third period thanks to freshman Will Acton, but UNO responded just under 10 minutes later when Bryan Marshall netted his second goal of the evening, assisted by Dan Charleston and Ed Del Grosso.

Unfortunately for the Mavericks, a rare overtime penalty from Marshall for holding at 2:18 pretty much assured the Mavericks wouldn't be notching a win on the evening. Kaufmann was forced to stop several key scoring chances from the Lakers on the power play to make sure UNO didn't come away from the weekend with only one point to show for their efforts.

"I left it all out there this weekend, I played my heart out," Kaufmann said. "I just wanted to give my team a chance to win."

Kemp said it was unacceptable that the team put Kaufmann in the position where he had to save the game for them.

"He certainly saved our bacon tonight," he said. "We left him out to dry two [or] three times tonight and he came up big ... credit goes to him for that."

Kemp's view on the team's standing in the conference going into a slew of non-conference games isn't a positive one. Despite being alone in sixth place in a 12-team league, he was visibly frustrated with the mounting missed opportunities the team has had so far this season.

"We're firmly entrenched in the middle and that's not good enough," he said. "If we had taken care of the business we had at hand ... we're in a whole different frame of mind but I think right now it's more frustration and disappointment at where we're at because we know we're a better hockey team than what our statistics show."

Starting tonight the Mavericks start on a five-game non-conference stretch

which includes this weekend's series at Union and a three-game home stand against Minnesota State-Mankato, Princeton and Yale. The next conference games for the team are Jan. 5 and Jan. 6 at Western Michigan before returning home the next weekend to face the current No. 1 team in the country, Miami (Ohio), for the second time this year.

Looking forward to the reduced pressure of the non-conference games and impending holiday break, Dan Charleston said he hoped the respite will give the team a chance to clear their heads.

"By us succeeding it just gives us confidence to come back here ... ready to go on a tear the second half," he said. "Just from my point of view ... it's always good to get away from things and have a little escape."

Currently the CCHA is divided into three tiers. Teams like Miami, Michigan and Notre Dame are well-established at the top with at least 20 conference points each, while teams like UNO, Ferris State, Bowling Green and Northern Michigan are each within a point or two of each other. Lower-tier teams like Alaska, Western Michigan, Lake Superior State and Ohio State are still waiting to break the double-digit mark for points.

UNO's second-half schedule is evenly divided among the top, middle and lower-tiered teams. With only three home series left against the conference's Ohio-based teams - Miami, Bowling Green and Ohio State - anything less than eight points out of a possible 12 and the Mavs run the risk of losing home ice in the first round of the playoffs this year. However, with winnable road series, if the Mavs can run the tables a top-four finish, and a first-round bye isn't out of the question.

The next home game for the Mavs will be Tuesday, Dec. 18 against Mankato before facing Yale and Princeton that same weekend.

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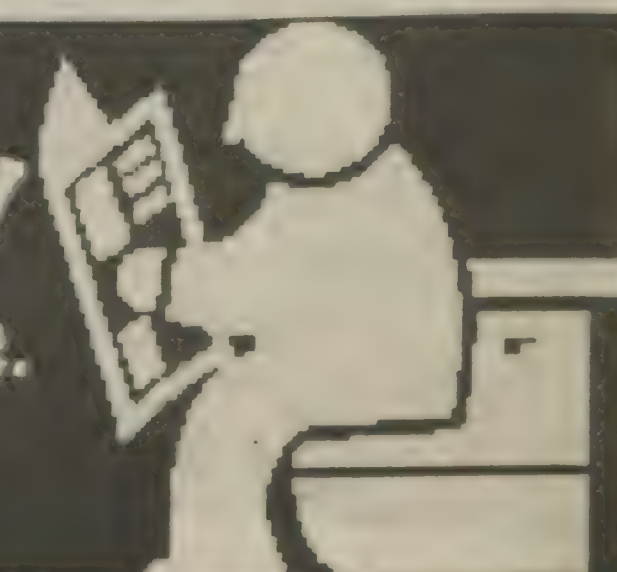
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Michael Jenkins' road-from the local 'Cage' to the Sapp Fieldhouse

BRETT OSTRONIC
STAFF WRITER

Even at a young age, Michael Jenkins knew he was destined for the hardwood. The UNO star began playing pick-up ball and shooting hoops as early as six years old at the Lafern Williams Center and at a local neighborhood court, known as "The Cage" because of its fenced in, gauntlet-like structure. Basketball soon became his passion as he dreamt of reaching the pinnacle of basketball stardom.

Born in Omaha, Jenkins and his brother Sharif were raised by his mother, Shawntae. They were taught at a young age that school must always come first.

"She told me that without school you can't play basketball, so grades have always been first in line for me," Jenkins said, "And with her being a Corrections Officer she did a good job of always keeping me in line."

His mother was a major influence in his life growing up.

"Being a single parent and seeing her work hard every day, it really made me want to go to school and focus on everything going on in my life," Jenkins said. "She woke up early every day and worked extra hours in order to provide a better life for me and my brother."

Shawntae Jenkins did what any good mother would do. She put food on the table, provided discipline and taught respect.

While playing at Bryan Middle school, Michael met a man that would change the entire landscape of his basketball career. It was through his counselor that Michael met Bellevue West Head basketball Coach Doug Woodard.

Around this time his brother Sharif, once an Omaha High School Player of the Year in basketball for Bryan, found himself involved in some gang activity and was suspended from school for a year. Shawntae felt it was necessary to get her children away from the environment and motivation soon became a factor that pushed Jenkins in the right direction.

"Seeing how heart-broken my mom was," said



Jenkins looking back, "I didn't want to do anything to upset her and that really kept me focused."

Coach Woodard would later be the deciding factor that prompted a move from Omaha to Bellevue for the Jenkins family.

While at Bellevue West, Jenkins became a humble individual.

"Coach Woodard is a zero tolerance guy; he got me straight real fast," Jenkins said. "Coming from Bryan and thinking I was the best player, he snapped me out of that real quick and [showed me] it was good to be a humble guy out there on the court."

The Thunderbirds won back-to-back state championships in Michael's junior and senior years, finishing with a combined record of 50-3. Jenkins earned all-Metro Conference and all-Class A honors along with a second-team all-state pick. He averaged 16 points per game and set a school

record with 19 free throws in a single game.

After graduating from Bellevue West, Jenkins began to receive what every high school basketball player dreams of, athletic scholarship offers. Such schools as Sacramento State, Southeast Missouri State, Evansville from the Missouri Valley Conference and Northwest Missouri State sought after him.

But it was a trio of factors that inevitably brought the then two-time state champion to the hardwood floor of UNO's Sapp Fieldhouse.

"It was the coaching staff, more specifically, [UNO] Coach [Derrin] Hansen's wife Vicki, who was my English teacher [at Bellevue West] that allowed me to follow the Mavs that year," Jenkins said. "And UNO is in my hometown and I wanted my family and friends to be able to come and watch me play."

During his freshman year, Jenkins played the role of sixth man. Coming off the bench to play in 24 games, he shot 41 percent from the floor and averaged just over six points per game before being sidelined with an Achilles injury.

Last year, he started in just as many games he appeared in and averaged an astounding 15 points per game, shooting nearly 90 percent from the charity stripe. Jenkins tripled his amount of field goals and assists from the previous year, all while battling a shoulder injury and playing out of position throughout the year.

After huge successes this season that include being named North Central Conference player of the week two weeks ago, Jenkins is not yet satisfied.

"Player-of-the-weeks are going to come and go for either one of these guys, but we are looking towards the big picture of getting that NCC championship," Jenkins said.

The Mavericks are undefeated with a 7-0 mark on the year, and Shawntae sits in the stands, louder than ever. She dons her number 20 jersey, representing her son while he plays the game he has loved since the days of "The Cage", where he and his friends dreamt of hardwood stardom. For Michael, his dreams are quickly becoming a reality.

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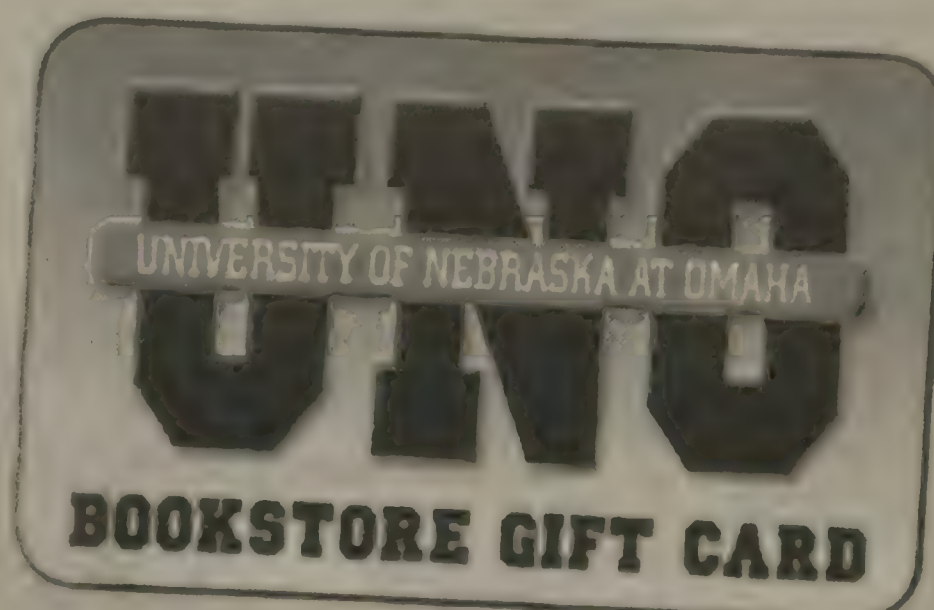
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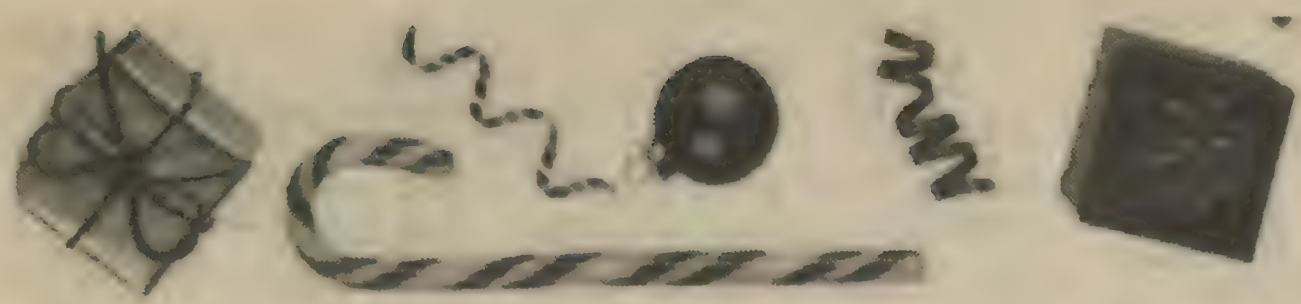


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Stay fit, keep off weight this holiday season

ASHLEE SCHUETTE
COPY AND LINE EDITOR

The holiday season is here and with it comes heaps of pie, candy, cookies, drinks, fruitcake, appetizers, turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes and gravy.

The list could go on, but instead here are a few ways to watch what you eat to avoid those stubborn holiday pounds while still enjoying that holiday cheer.

Student Health Services Director Marcia Adler said the main thing to remember is the holidays are the holidays. Enjoy yourself but keep a few things in mind.

First of all, the holidays can be a stressful time. Relax! It should be a fun time with family and friends.

"If you're a stress eater and you're going to a company party or a boyfriend's family get-together and that's stressful to you, think about that ahead of time and make some decisions beforehand," Adler said.

Adler suggests keeping portion sizes in mind. Think of having a half of a piece of pie instead of a full piece. Also, don't wolf food down but try and enjoy it.

"A lot of the times we have one bite left before we realize how good something is and then we're up for more," Adler said.

Also, people tend to pace themselves with the fastest eater in the family, Adler said.

"Pace yourself with your grandma if you have to," she said.

Slow down and talk with family. It slows down the process and let's you enjoy your food and your family's company better.

When you're trying to choose what food to put on your plate, Adler suggests sampling food first.

"You don't have to clean up your plate," Adler said. "It isn't an obligation."

Try and keep the evidence of food eaten on your plate. Chances are if you see how much you eat, you'll stop.

Try not to eat anything that doesn't sit on a plate. If your aunt or grandmother is in the kitchen baking cookies or preparing a dish of food, it is easy to walk past and grab a tiny bite. However, that only leads to walking right back in for another round. If you want food, get a plate and sit down and eat. Adler calls this the plate rule.

Make sure to never position yourself next to the food; sit away from it.

"If we stand there and we don't use the plate rule, we might end up nibbling our way through the whole evening," Adler said.

Adler said eating something like fruit or a small salad before heading out to a holiday party is another way to avoid overeating.

Even with going for low fat, sugar-free food, you still have to watch your portion size. Sometimes people forget it still has calories.

"People don't realize if they have three pieces of sugar-free candy, it would be equivalent to having one normal piece, calorie-wise," Adler said.

Alcohol is another red flag during the holiday season. Alcohol drinks contain a lot of calories—especially those you can't see through.

Termed "foo-foo drinks," these sweet concoctions have a way of adding up the calories because of their non-alcoholic taste. Adler suggests drinking them in moderation. Try drinking half and then putting it down.

"Try switching to water or diet pop halfway through," Adler said. "This can be used any time during the year but during the holidays most



The cheesy Christmas tree is an easy-to-make appetizer that will set the holiday mood and keep your guests happy.

A good drink to go with that is the Cranberry Celebration, pictured. Find out how to make this drink on page 17.

photo by Patrick Doty,
food prepared by Ashlee Schuette

Food to help break that diet this holiday season

ASHLEE SCHUETTE
COPY AND LINE EDITOR

Whether you're cooking for a few close friends or your entire family, knowing what and how to serve the right type of Christmas food will leave your guests awestruck and fighting over the leftovers.

Here are just a few examples of what you can serve for your holiday guests. Be creative and have fun!

For starters, you'll definitely need an appetizer when your guests start to arrive. Try making a cheesy Christmas tree. It's quick, easy and delicious!

What you'll need:

- 1 (8 oz) package of Philadelphia cream cheese
- 1 Kraft Polly-O Twist-Ums String Cheese
- ½ cup of DiGiorno Basil Pesto sauce
- ¼ cup of chopped red pepper
- Crackers

Begin by cutting the block of cream cheese diagonally in half. Arrange both halves so the points are together in the shape of a Christmas tree. Then cut a two-inch piece from the string cheese. Place at the bottom of your tree to serve as the trunk. Spoon the pesto sauce over the cream cheese and then sprinkle with red peppers. This gourmet appetizer is to be served as a spread with the crackers. Enjoy!

After the appetizer but before the actual meal, try serving up a fresh pot of southwestern pumpkin soup. It will warm your guests right down to the bone while giving them that holiday cheer.

What you'll need:

- 3 cups of chicken stock or canned low-salt chicken broth
- 1 cup of whipping cream
- 1 (15 oz) can of pure pumpkin
- 3 tablespoons of dark brown sugar, packed
- 1 tablespoon of ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon of chili powder
- ½ teaspoon of ground coriander
- 1/8 teaspoon of ground nutmeg
- ¾ cup (packed) grated sharp cheddar cheese
- Fresh chopped cilantro

You'll need to combine the chicken stock and whipping cream and bring to a boil in a heavy medium pot. Next, whisk in the canned pumpkin, brown sugar, cumin, chili powder, coriander and nutmeg. Reduce heat to medium and simmer until the soup thickens and the flavors blend. Let it simmer about 15 minutes.

You might need to season to taste with salt and pepper. After ladling soup into separate bowls, you can garnish them with cheddar cheese and cilantro.

Now for the main course. Serve up a lemon-garlic roasted turkey to satisfy the hunger of your holiday guests. Give yourself plenty of time, however, because this project will take at least one day.

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1 (15 pound) whole turkey, fresh or frozen (but make sure it's thawed when you begin to prepare)
 ¾ cup of extra virgin olive oil
 1/3 cup of freshly squeezed lemon juice
 6 to 8 cloves of fresh garlic, peeled
 1 tablespoon of lemon zest
 1 teaspoon of salt
 1 teaspoon of freshly ground black pepper
 (Optional: lemon wedges, parsley or other fresh herbs)

Make sure to clean your turkey well by removing giblets and wash with cold running water. Drain well.

In a blender, combine olive oil and lemon juice. While blending, drop in garlic cloves one at a time. Gradually begin to add the lemon zest. Continue to blend until the mixture is puréed, or completely ground up.

Using an injector (you can buy one at any grocery store), inject marinade into all parts of your thawed turkey. If your marinade is too thick to pass through the injector, try putting it through a strainer. Next, gently massage your turkey to distribute the marinade evenly throughout the meat.

Put the turkey in a large plastic bag (make sure it's a cooking bag or foodservice grade plastic bag) and refrigerate overnight.

The next step will be to remove the turkey and drain the excess marinade. You'll need to scrape off the excess marinade and throw it away. Don't re-use the marinade to baste the turkey.

To cook, place the turkey, breast side up, on a rack in a large shallow roasting pan. Rub it with salt and pepper. Make sure to insert an oven-safe meat thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh. Don't let it touch the bone! Roast the turkey in a pre-heated oven at 325 degrees Fahrenheit for about three

and a half hours. In the last hours, you may need to loosely cover the turkey to prevent excessive browning. Continue cooking your turkey until the thermometer registers 180 degrees in the thigh or 170 degrees in the breast.

When you remove it from the oven, let it sit for 15 to 20 minutes before carving. To finish, place the turkey on a large platter and garnish it with fresh herbs, butter and lemon wedges.

For dessert, make something simple and light. Cheesecake cookie cups will be just the thing to finish off your successful holiday dinner.

What you'll need:

- 1 pkg. (16.5 oz.) Refrigerated Chocolate Chip Cookie Bar Dough
- 2 pkgs. (8 oz. each) cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 can (14 oz.) Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 can (21 oz.) cherry pie filling

For starters, preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Next, paper-line 24 muffin cups and place one piece of cookie dough in each muffin cup. Bake the cookies for about 10 to 12 minutes or until the cookie has spread to the edge of the cup.

While they are cooking, beat the cream cheese, sweetened condensed milk, eggs and vanilla extract in a medium bowl until its completely smooth. Pour about three tablespoons of cream mixture over each cookie cup.

Bake them for an additional 15 to 18 minutes or until set. Cool completely in a pan on a wire rack. Top each cup with a level tablespoon of pie filling. To finish, refrigerate for about one hour.

Source: cooksrecipes.com

Drinks to jolt your holiday spirits

ASHLEE SCHUETTE
 COPY AND LINE EDITOR

The Christmas season is the perfect time for friends and family to get together for food, fun and spirits. What better way to get the Christmas evening going than with a holiday drink? All drinks found below can be mixed with alcohol or left without. If alcohol is present, please be responsible. Don't drink and drive!

The Chocolate Milk Whip

- 4 oz. of chocolate milk
- 2 oz. of cold coffee
- whipped cream
- shaved chocolate

Optional

- 1 oz. Bailey's (for an individual cocktail)

Directions:

Fill a tall glass with ice. Add 4 oz. of chocolate milk and 2 oz. of cold coffee. Top with whipped cream and garnish with shaved chocolate.

For an individual cocktail, just add 1 oz. of Bailey's Irish Crème.

Holiday Punch

- 2 48 oz. cans of pineapple juice
- 1 40 oz bottle of cranberry juice
- 2 750 mL bottles of soda water
- 1 liter strawberry, raspberry or lime sherbet

Optional oz. Vodka (for an individual cocktail)

Directions:

In a punch bowl, mix pineapple and cranberry juice. Pour in soda water. Top with scoops of sherbet. Makes about 16 1-cup servings. For an individual cocktail, add 1 ½ oz. of vodka.

Peppermint Cream

- 1 quart of peppermint ice cream
- 1 liter of sprite or 7-up

Optional 1 ½ oz. of peppermint schnapps.

Directions!

In a punch bowl, combine the quart of ice cream and pop. Pour slowly, otherwise you'll be dealing with an overflow! Stir until most of ice cream is mixed evenly. Serve immediately.

For an individual cocktail, add 1 ½ oz of peppermint schnapps.

The Cranberry Celebration

- 3 oz. of cranberry juice
- 2 oz. of orange juice
- 1/8 oz. lime cordial
- soda water
- frozen cranberries

Optional

1 ½ oz. of vodka (opt for cranberry vodka instead!)

Directions:

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine the cranberry, orange juice and lime cordial. Shake sharply and strain into a collins glass filled with ice. Top with soda water and sprinkle with frozen cranberries.

For an individual cocktail, add 1 ½ oz. of vodka.

Source: whattodrink.com

Happy Holidays



from the Milo Bail Student Center

From **CHRISTENSEN**: Page 3

to the Criss Library, which have resulted in a tripling of daily turnstile counts in a time when most students can do their research with a few mouse-clicks rather than hours pouring over library stacks.

"I think it says something about the receptivity and the expert support that the library staff provides, the environment that is available there for study, and I think that it is a great series of events that have occurred with respect to the library," Christensen said.

Christensen went on to comment about the progress made in the Engineering Building and Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building projects.

Engineering is being renovated and converted into the new home for the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, and HPER is undergoing an expansion to add more workout space, a new home for Student Health Services, an additional 110 parking spaces and more.

"I would say that [the HPER expansion] is one of the more important initiatives to take place on our campus in some time," Christensen said. "The reason I believe that is such an important hallmark event is that that says something about the campus life, it says something about students spending more time on campus, students being here, or students identifying with this as their institution, not just stopping by to take a class."

In his hallmark plain language and simple assessments, Christensen said the CPACS Building would be "spectacular," and the HPER Building would be "fabulous" after the three-year project is complete.

As important as brick-and-mortar development is to the university, Christensen also said he has noticed a more important development recently: The perception of the community is changing, and UNO is becoming a destination for prospective and current students alike.

One aspect of UNO's thriving campus life and newfound identity is athletics. Christensen cited the new student organization The Bullpen and its achievements at increasing student engagement in sports.

"At football games, we've seen more students, more excitement, than in any time in my memory," Christensen said. "Same is true in hockey, basketball - I mean, students have really taken it upon itself to take the bull by the horn, so to say, to say 'This is our place, and we want it. We want to build that campus spirit.'"

In addition to athletics, Christensen said he believed students were becoming more involved in campus organizations, clubs and service activities. Citing student engagement in the community, Christensen said last year UNO students logged more than 300,000 hours participating in internships, student teaching, volunteer work, service learning and similar activities.

"The message that sends is that this is a campus that is vital to the community, it's involved in the community, but, on another level, it's exposing the community that doesn't get exposed to the type of student that's here at UNO, and it's a very positive exposure," Christensen said. "I mean, we have a great student body, and the community is now learning about that first-hand."

Of course, students aren't the only people leading the shift in perspective regarding UNO in the local community. The university administration has been hard at work creating initiatives like the Metropolitan Advantage Program, which offers reduced out-of-state tuition rates to students admitted to UNO from Pottawattamie, Mills and Harrison counties in Iowa.

"For several years, I've believed, as have many others, if we're a metropolitan institution, we should be serving our metropolitan area. And we do that well, with one exception, and that is, 'Oh, by the way, if you live across the bridge, you can't come here unless you pay three times the rate,'" Christensen said. "I don't think that's right. I don't think it's appropriate. I don't think it made sense. So I'm very, very happy that we now have this program."

Christensen said the university was trying to raise awareness of the Metropolitan Advantage Program by targeting particular groups of people, like school superintendents and local chambers of commerce, helping to establish a personal rapport with those interest groups.

"I really feel pretty strongly that the first step needs to be where you personalize it, it becomes a face with a name. So our names are out, our vice chancellors, our student services folks, and I'm over

there as well, to talk with people, visit with them and so on," Christensen said. "We're going to get our students involved, too. When we make our trips in the spring over to do particular visits, we're going to invite students ... because no one talks better about student life than students."

Programs like the Metropolitan Advantage Program, in addition to raising interest in UNO, are also helping to keep the campus competitive in the wake of increasing competition from other institutions of higher learning, including Bellevue University. Competition is not something that has Christensen worried, though.

"My great concern is that high school students not miss the opportunity to continue their education. My concern is that we have opportunities available for continued education for those who may have degrees, who want to continue to develop their skills and their future," Christensen said. "So, on one level, it's about making sure we have a lot of opportunities for the people here in our community, because an educated population is going to serve us all well."

Christensen said that he was proud that so many graduating seniors report that they had a positive experience at UNO.

"I am so proud of the fact that when we interview seniors, well over 90 percent of them say - this is an incredible statistic from my perspective - more than 90 percent of those graduating seniors say they would recommend UNO to a family member or a friend. That is a huge endorsement for this institution," Christensen said.

In the end, Christensen said he was more concerned with providing people options rather than worrying about competition.

"And wise folks are going to choose UNO," he added.

After his retrospective, Christensen said he was looking forward to increasing the options students have in the future. One area he believes needs improvement is providing more balanced course offerings all year, an initiative being explored by the 12 Month Operational Plan Task Force. That task force will make its report to Christensen early next semester.

Christensen also mentioned his new Bright Ideas Web site, brightideas.unomaha.edu. The Web site asks members of the campus community for suggestions on how to improve services, save money and be more efficient.

"I received a great one yesterday, and if it doesn't get implemented, I'd be shocked. It was a suggestion that we need to start printing on both sides of paper. If you stop and think about how much printing we do, and it's easily enough done, ... it's amazing how much you can reduce your paper usage," Christensen said. "And so little ideas like that, you know, it's just great suggestions. Somebody discovered it. They go, 'Hey, we were able to save 10 reams of paper by doing this. What if the whole campus did it?'"

Christensen said that a university is a place where smart people collect, and he thinks it's only common sense to reach out to the 18,000 members of the campus community to figure out how to make UNO's business better.

"So, yeah, I'm going to keep pounding away at that, until the recommendation is that if you go away, this would be a better place," he added.

With an eye towards the future, Christensen said he was also excited to be able to celebrate UNO's centennial next year. He said the celebration would offer great opportunities for the campus to celebrate its traditions while continuing to improve its offerings.

"To celebrate a 100th birthday is in and of itself unique," Christensen said. "I couldn't be happier."

As an example of the sort of projects planned for next year, Christensen mentioned the Gateway online digital archives project, located at library.unomaha.edu/collections/gateway. The archives are a statement about how strongly people feel about the Gateway and the history of this institution, Christensen said.

Christensen said he was looking forward to next semester, but also was excited for the upcoming holiday season.

"I'd like to wish everyone a happy holiday," Christensen said. "I know a lot of people are traveling, and if they are doing so, do so carefully."

Christensen added that he was looking forward to seeing students return in the spring, because he plans to kick off a semester like never before.

"I'm as excited as I've ever been," Christensen said. "I think the future of this campus is just absolutely incredible."

From **WEIGHT**: Page 18

especially."

Above all, try to remember this is the holidays and you don't have to avoid your favorite cookie, appetizer or drink but have a plan ahead of time and watch your portions.

After everything is said and done, most people would love to sit back, relax and perhaps fall asleep after a large dinner. Don't!

Adler suggests getting everyone to grab their coats and head outside to throw a football around or even take a nice walk through the neighborhood to look at the neighborhood lights. This is good for elderly, young people, little kids.

"We're not talking about running a marathon," Adler said. "Just get a coat and take a nice walk."

If it's too cold to go outside, Adler suggests heading for a community center, gym or even a bowling alley. If you feel the need to stay home, get the family together for a fun, interactive board game or game of cards.

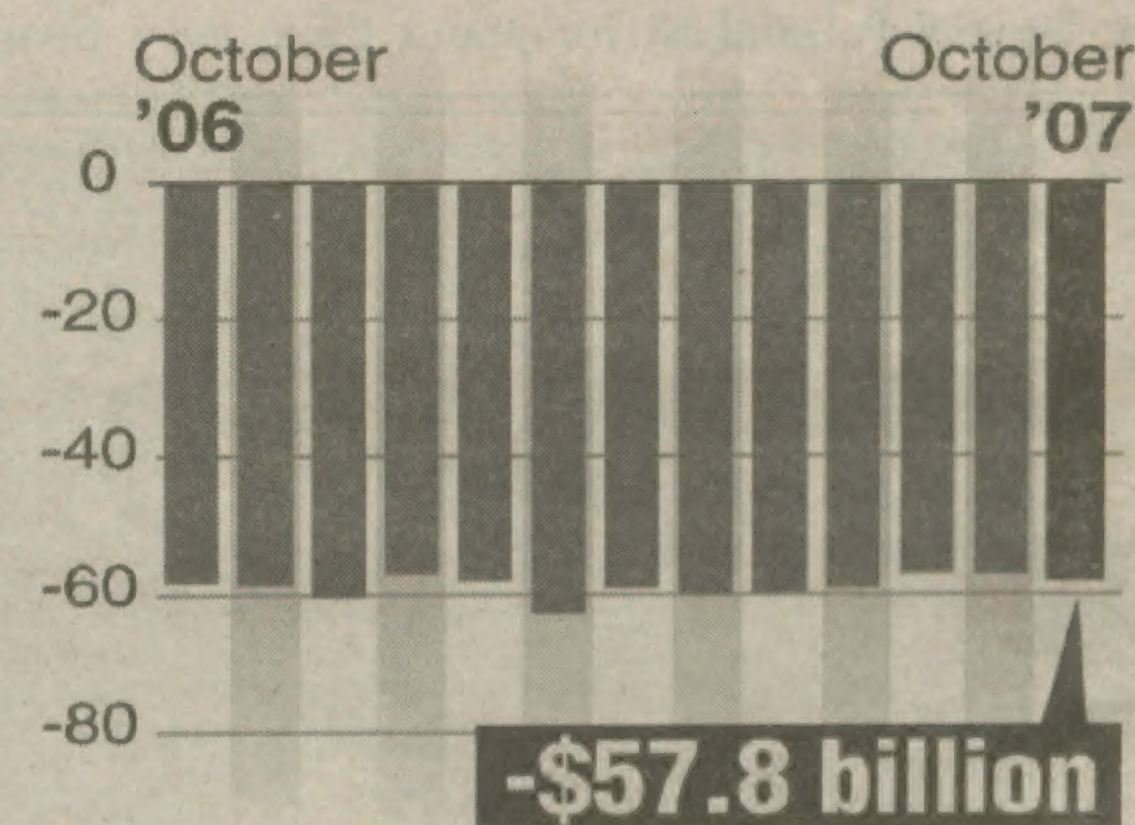
Adler also had a suggestion for students.

"Print out the hours for the HPER (Health Physical Education and Recreation) building, get a few guest passes and bring people," Adler said.

It's a great way to get a few friends in on a game of basketball or racquetball. It's great fun that won't feel like exercise, until a day or two later for some.

Just remember to get creative and find fun things to do with family and friends during this holiday season. It will give you something to do rather than sitting around, eating left over holiday junk food. It's also another plus to avoiding those extra holiday pounds.

Trade deficit



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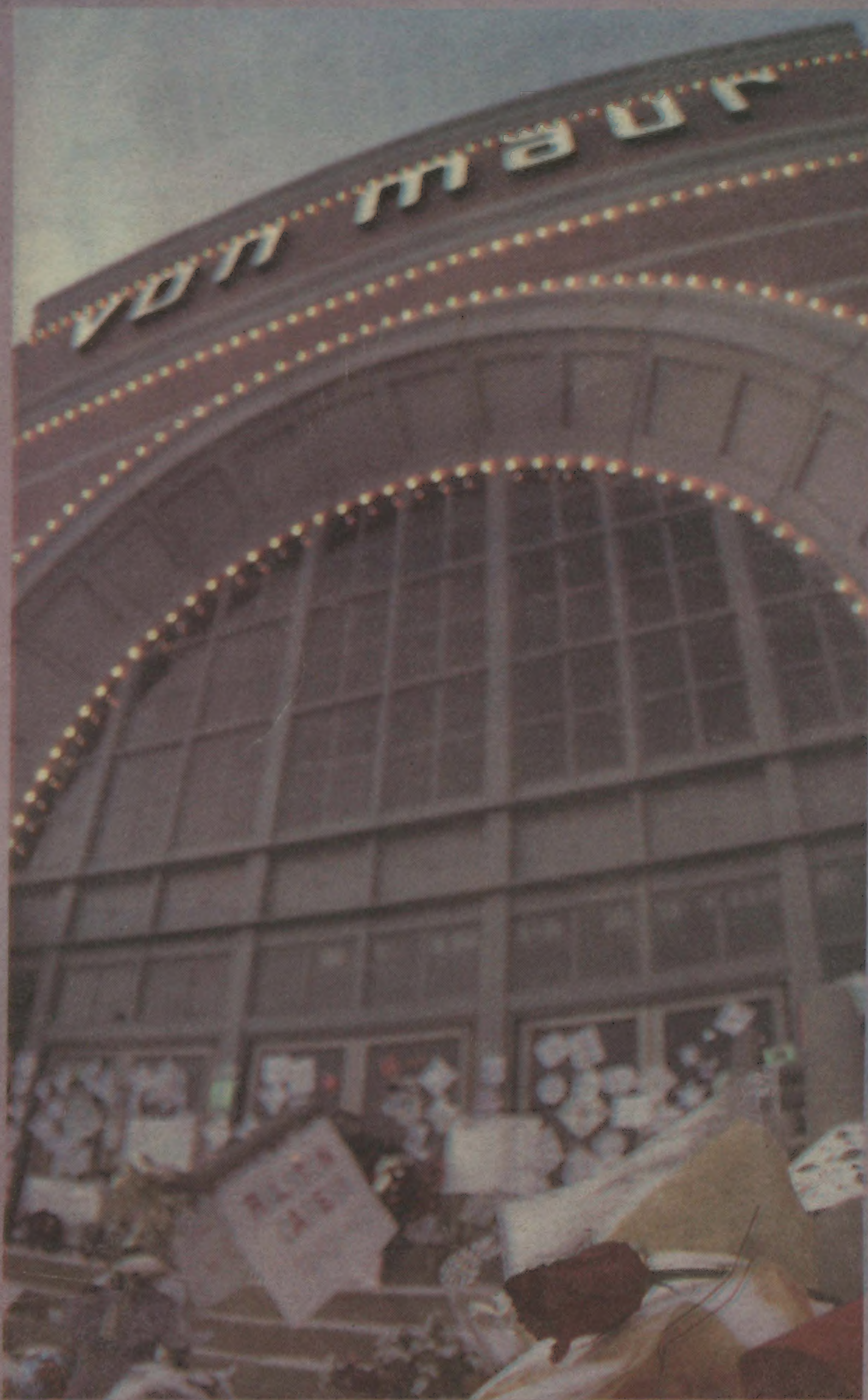
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Omaha community comes together to mourn Von Maur victims



UNO Alum Raye Sullivan, holding son Cruize, takes a moment to look at the memorial set up outside the Von Maur store inside Westroads Mall on Wednesday.

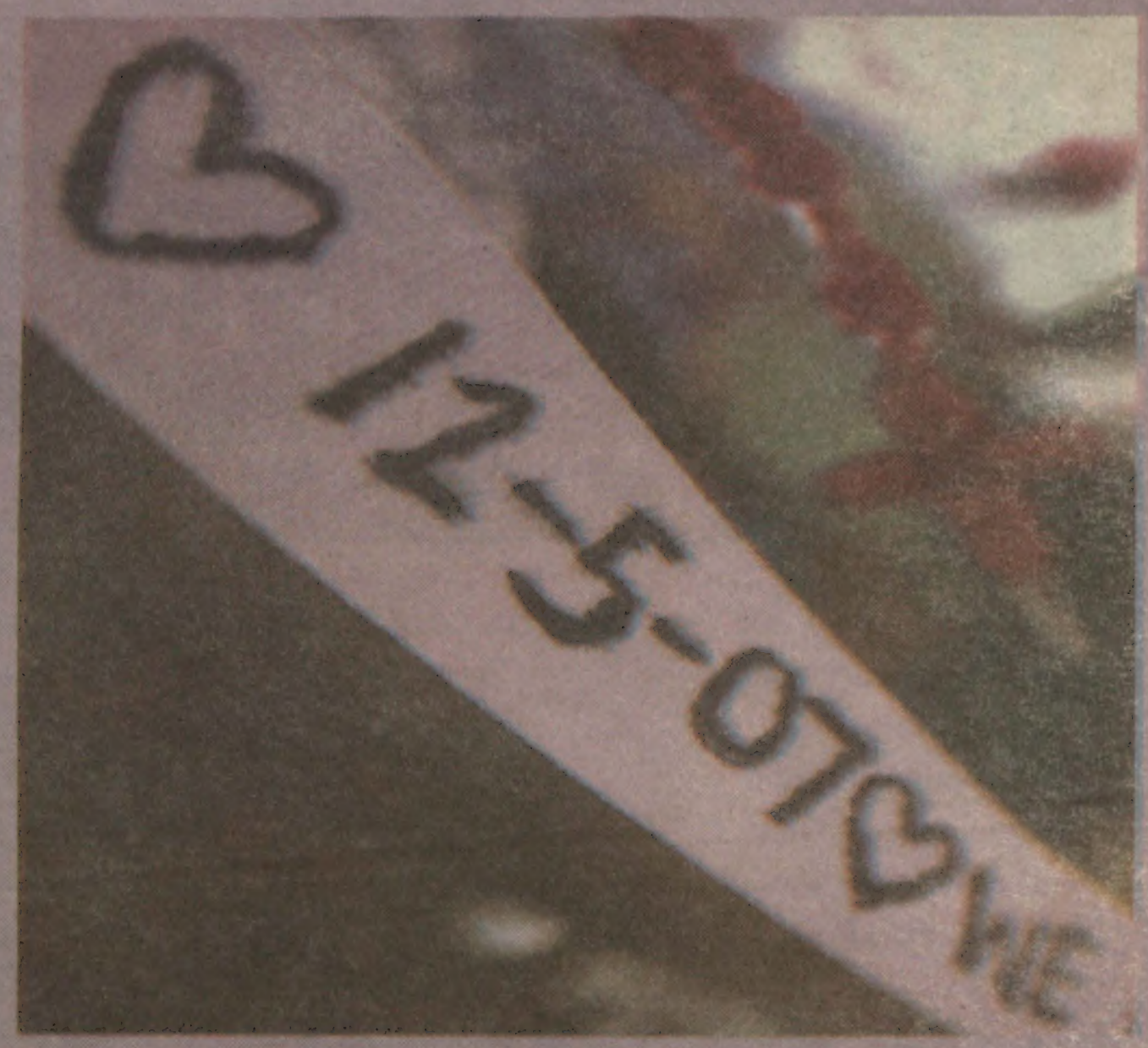


The UNO Counseling Center offered its services free to the public to help people affected by the Westroads tragedy. Anyone wishing to contact the Counseling Center can call (402) 554-2409 or come by their offices on the first floor of the Epply Administration Building.

So far, the response from the community has mostly been phone calls, said the center's director, Marti Rosen-Atherton. A lot of people have just needed to talk to someone and normalize their reactions, she said.

Community members have left flowers, letters, gifts and other tokens in tribute of the eight victims of the Von Maur shootings on Dec. 5.

Snowflakes are also being left as part of a campaign to honor the victims, because each of the shooting victims are both alike and unique.



All photos by Michelle Bishop

From KWANZAA: Page 5

said. "As I celebrated Kwanzaa over the years, I found that connection improved."

Diana Gondwe, the president of Bellevue University's Student Advisory Council, attended the Kwanzaa celebration to learn more about her heritage. She said that events like this one were not held on BU's campuses.

"It would be good if most schools would take this attitude," Gondwe said. "That's something I'm going to take back with me and see if we can try to get

something like this going, because it's a great way to get students and faculty involved."

Practicing the principle of Ujima, collective work and responsibility, a group of UNO students will be going to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services on Dec. 28 to share Kwanzaa celebrations with the inmates.

"It's important to have cultural events," Liwaru said. "People are genuinely thirsty to learn about other cultures."

From BRIGHT IDEAS: Page 3

boundaries."

The majority of the ideas submitted so far address the campus' energy efficiency and becoming eco-friendly.

"We've had a lot of suggestions about energy saving and recycling and making this a greener campus," Christensen said.

In response, UNO's administration

From BASKETBALL: Page 13

(6-2). The ThunderWolves have allowed just over 62 points per game this season while scoring an average of 71 points per game. This should mark the toughest game during this three-game home stretch. Six-foot-2 senior Lyndsey Black, who averages 12 points and seven rebounds per game, leads the team in both categories.

The third and final match-up for the Mavs before starting the New Year is set to be a mismatch against the struggling Jets of Newman College. As of Nov. 15, the Jets

(1-5) are putting up a mere 52 points per game while allowing a dreadful 71 points per game. The Mavs should not have any trouble taking care of business against the Jets before the Hawaii trip in which the Mavs will play three games in three days.

The match-up with the Bearcats is slated for tonight at 6 p.m. Stop by the Sapp Fieldhouse tonight to witness these surging Mavericks go for four in a row. Tickets are free with your UNO MavCard.

has been working on implementing digital drop boxes for classroom assignment as well as online test reviews and tests, reducing the amount of paper wasted by students.

"One of my beliefs is universities are unique and that they have this great collection of people who are not only really smart, but they are also very creative," Christensen said.